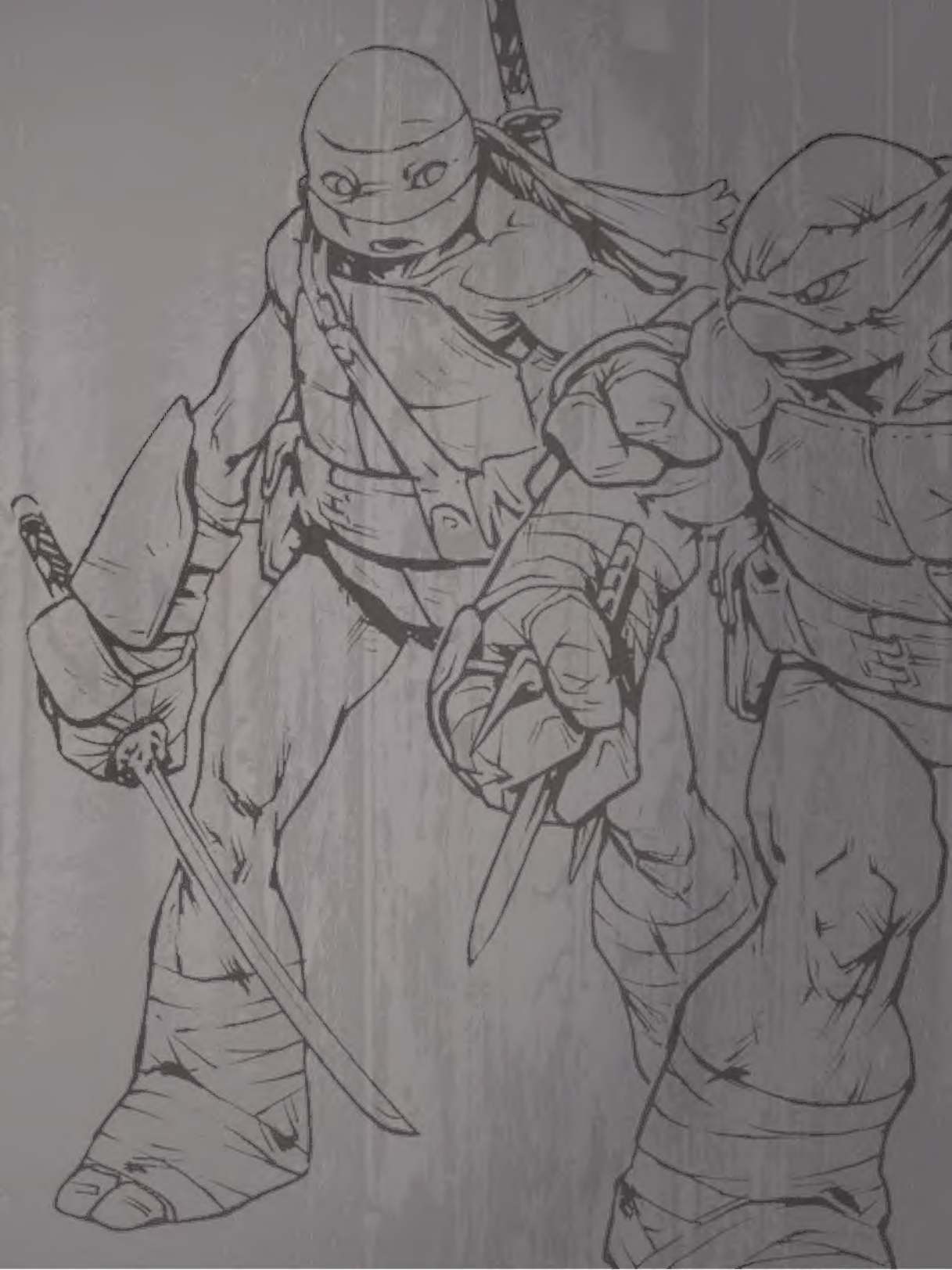
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES
THE IDW COLLECTION V6



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colors by NICK FILARDI letters by SHAWN LEE

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MUTANIMALS #1

art by ANDY KUHN
colors by NICK FILARDI

HERE'S WHAT I'M SAYING. YOU HAVE REGULAR NULL COLA. OKAY? THEN YOU ALSO HAVE CHERRY COLA. AND LEMON COLA. AND VANILLA COLA. WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?
CHERRY. LEMON. VANILLA. ALL FRUITS!
PETE, VANILLA ISN'T—
BUT WHAT'S THE BEST FRUIT?
HMM. THAT'S PRETTY SUBJECTIVE. IT DEPENDS ON PERSONAL TASTE, CULTURAL BACKGROUND, EXPOSURE TO—
RIGHT! BLUEBERRIES! SO WHY ISN'T THERE A BLUEBERRY COLA?!
I... I DON'T KNOW, PETE.
DOESN'T KNOW... WHY THERE'S NO... BLUEBERRY COLA...
UH, PETE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WRITING DOWN WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. YOU KNOW, FOR HOB.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? IT'S BAD ENOUGH HOB DOESN'T LET ME LEAVE HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT A CHAPERONE, BUT HE ALSO TELLS YOU TO SPY ON ME?
I UNDERSTAND WHY HE WOULDN'T TRUST ME AT FIRST. BUT HAVEN'T I EARNED IT BY NOW?
DON'T BE CRAZY! ALL HOB SAID WAS, "GO WITH LINDSEY, AND REPORT BACK ON EVERYTHING SHE SAYS AND DOES." NOTHING ABOUT SPYING ON YOU!
PETE, YOU LITERALLY JUST DESCRIBED...
YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND.

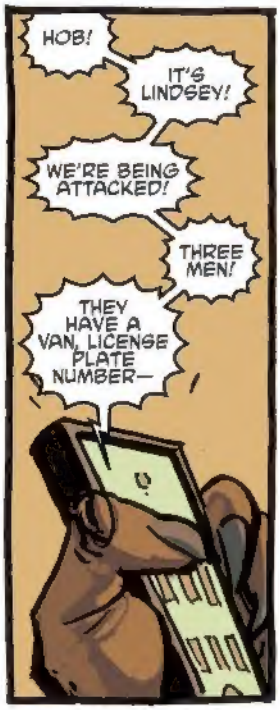
PETE!
HOB! IT'S LINDSEY! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED! THREE MEN! THEY HAVE A VAN, LICENSE PLATE NUMBER—
BANG

STOP, DROP AND ROLL!
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BULLET WILL COME DOWN!
THAT'S NOT THE BULLET YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.
KNOCK IT OFF! WE CAN'T KILL HIM.
WHY NOT? WE'RE HERE FOR THE GIRL.
YEAH, AND THIS THING'S A BONUS. A BONA FIDE MUTANT!
THE BOSS'LL WANT TO SEE HIM. MAYBE EVEN VIVISECT HIM.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

HEY, PETE, WE'RE BACK!

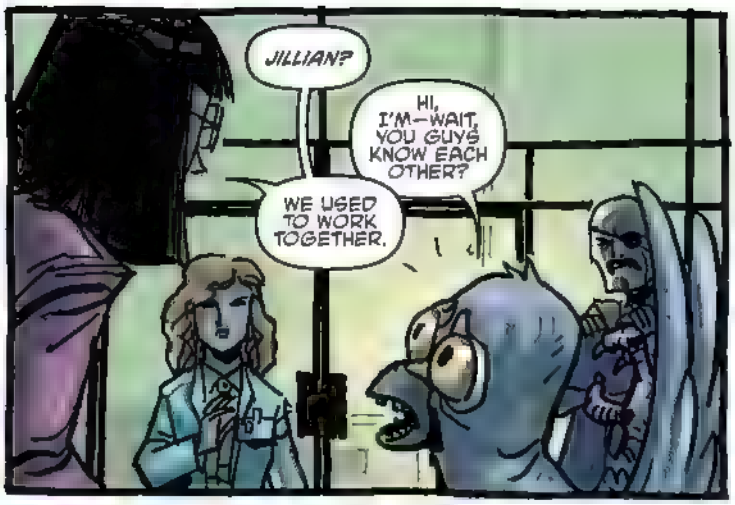
THAT WAS A LOT OF FOOT NINJAS WE JUST FOUGHT. LIKE... A LOT OF FOOT NINJAS.
YES. WE PREVAILED AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS.
WE SHOULD ALL BE PROUD.

ANY OF YOU GUYS SEEN PETE? OR LINDSEY?
THEY PROBABLY GOT SIDETRACKED ON THEIR SUPPLY RUN, PETE SAW AN ICE CREAM TRUCK, OR—


HOB!
IT'S LINDSEY!
WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!
THREE MEN!
THEY HAVE A VAN, LICENSE PLATE NUMBER—

BAAAG!

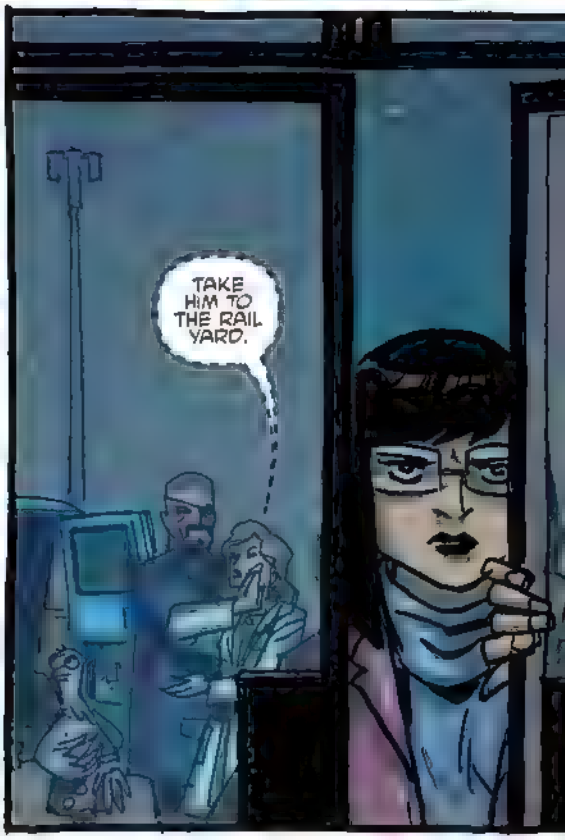
LET'S GO, MUTANIMALS!
GO WHERE? THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A LOT OF INFORMATION TO—
AH, COME ON... WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU, YOU STUPID PIECE OF...
HERE IT IS! I PLANTED A TRACKING DEVICE ON PETE, WEEKS AGO.
AFTER THE BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY INCIDENT*, IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
*SEE TMNT #39 - ED.
WAIT A MINUTE, BRO. YOU DON'T HAVE, LIKE... TRACKING DEVICES ON ALL OF US, DO YOU?
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
YOU'RE JUST BEING PARANOID.


JILLIAN?
HI, I'M—WAIT, YOU GUYS KNOW EACH OTHER?
WE USED TO WORK TOGETHER.

AND SHE'S MY EX-GIRLFRIEND.

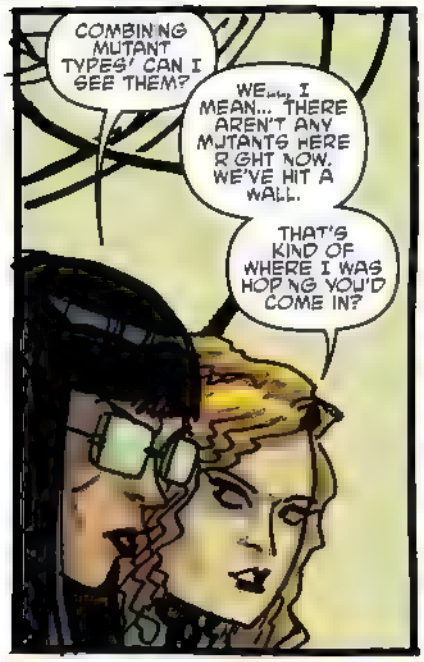
HEY, LINDSEY. DON'T BE MAD, OKAY? I WANTED TO SHOW YOU MY NEW LAB, AND MAYBE OFFER YOU A JOB? SO I ASKED MY EMPLOYER TO TRACK YOU DOWN.
AND WHEN I SAW WHAT A MESS YOU WERE IN, I THOUGHT, HEY, SHE NEEDS HELP, I NEED HELP, MAYBE WE CAN KI... TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
NOT THAT WE KILL BIRDS HERE! BUT, COME INSIDE, AND WE CAN TALK MORE ABOUT—

WAIT, I— I'M BEING KIDNAPPED FOR A JOB? AGAIN?
DOESN'T ANYONE JUST POST A HELP-WANTED AD ANYMORE?


TAKE HIM TO THE RAIL YARD.

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT HIM?
WE'LL DROP HIM OFF, RIGHT BACK WHERE WE FOUND HIM, NO HARM DONE!
GOOD. FINE.

HOW DID YOU DO ALL THIS, JILLIAN?
SO, I WORK FOR A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NULL GROUP.
YOU KNOW, THE CORPORATE CONGLOMERATE THAT MAKES, LIKE... PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING?
WE MANAGED TO SUCCESSFULLY CREATE SOME MUTANTS.
BUT NOW WE'RE TRYING TO *COMBINE* DNA TYPES. CREATE THE ULTIMATE MUTANT.


COMBINING MUTANT TYPES? CAN I SEE THEM?
WE... I MEAN... THERE AREN'T ANY MUTANTS HERE RIGHT NOW. WE'VE HIT A WALL.
THAT'S KIND OF WHERE I WAS HOPING YOU'D COME IN?

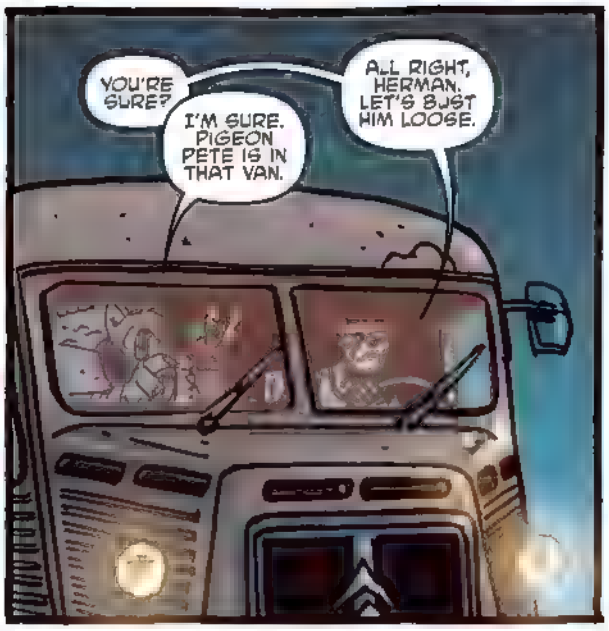
WAIT, BUT—WHERE DID YOU GET THE MUTAGEN? THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT. THE OLD STOCKGEN SUPPLY. BURNOW ISLAND. THE FOOT CLAN.
BINGO! I MEAN, YOU REALLY THINK THE *FOOT CLAN* COULD MAKE MUTANTS ON THEIR OWN? NO WAY. SO THEY OUTSOURCED IT TO US.
YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE *FOOT CLAN*?
HEY, YOU WANT TO COMPARE NOTES? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S HANGING OUT WITH MUTANT TERRORISTS. AND HELPING THEM MAKE MORE MUTANT TERRORISTS.

BESIDES, ALL OF THAT POLITICAL STUFF IS LIKE 18 LEVELS OF BUREAUCRACY ABOVE ME. MY JOB IS TO RUN A LAB FOR A FORTUNE 100 COMPANY, AND PULL IN TOTALLY KICKASS SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR DOING IT.
IT'S A GOOD DEAL, LINDSEY. SO, COME ON' COME WORK WITH ME.

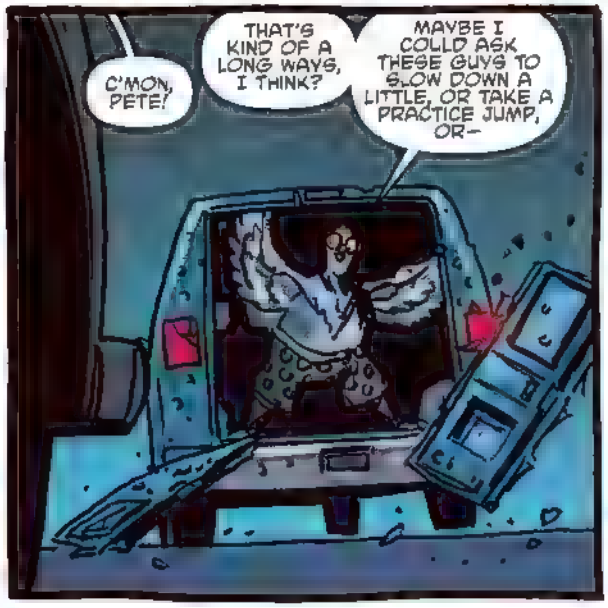
JILLIAN, WE'VE *NEVER* WORKED WELL TOGETHER, PERSONALLY OR PROFESSIONALLY. YOU WERE JUST TOO... TOO *MUCH*.
WEIRD AND *DANGEROUS*, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD.
THE THING I HAVE GOING NOW? IT'S *WEIRD*. BUT...

I... OKAY. YOU HAVE A POINT.
NO. BUT I'M STILL LISTENING.
SO YOU'RE IN?

THAT'S IT.

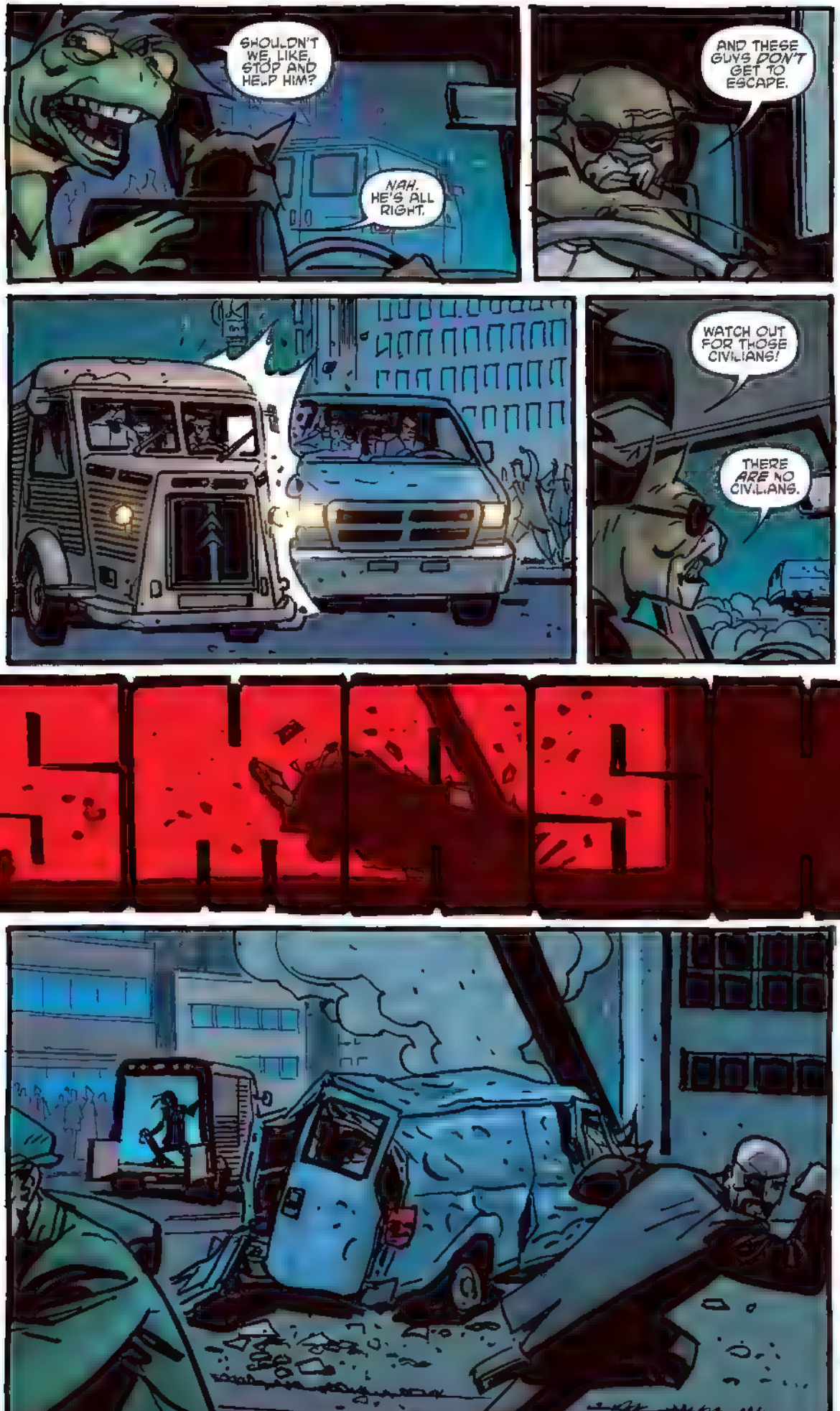

YOU'RE SURE?
I'M SURE. PIGEON PETE IS IN THAT VAN.
ALL RIGHT, HERMAN. LET'S BUST HIM LOOSE.

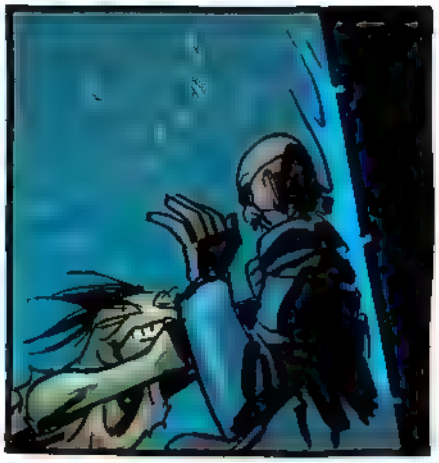
SIR, YES, S.R!


C'MON, PETE!
THAT'S KIND OF A LONG WAYS, I THINK?
MAYBE I COULD ASK THESE GUYS TO SLOW DOWN A LITTLE, OR TAKE A PRACTICE JUMP, OR—

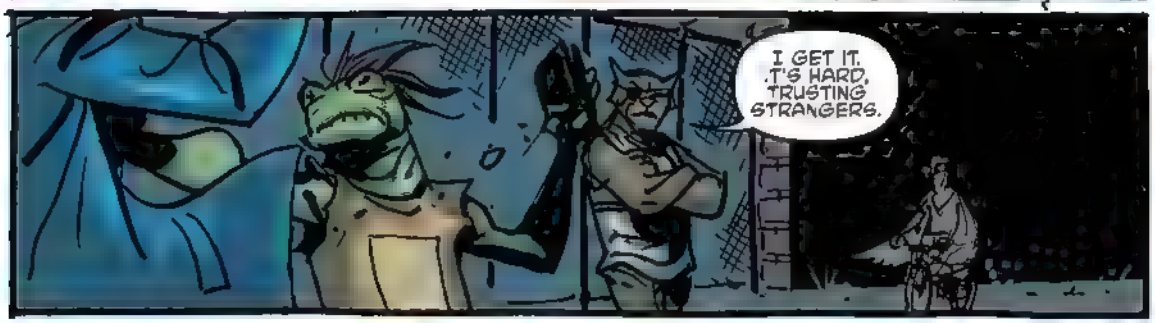
YOU'RE A PIGEON! DON'T JUMP, SOLDIER! FLY!

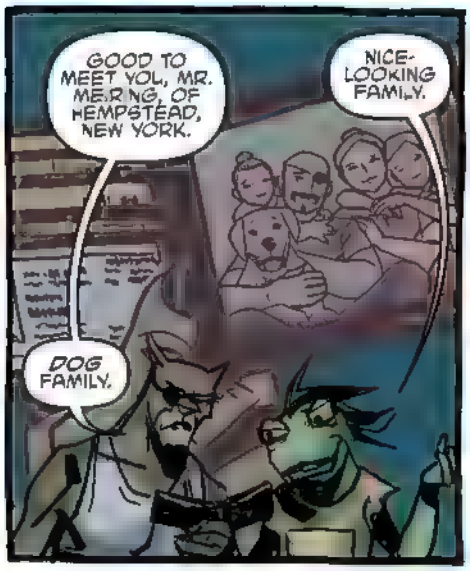
HEY! I CAN FLY! I CAN—
—NEVER MIND! I CAN'T FLY! I CAN'T FLY!
HEY, MISTER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HI... I'M PETE.


SHOULDN'T WE LIKE, STOP AND HELP HIM?
NAH. HE'S ALL RIGHT.
AND THESE GUYS DON'T GET TO ESCAPE.
WATCH OUT FOR THOSE CIVILIANS!
THERE ARE NO CIVILIANS.
SMASH



HEY, BUDDY. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. WELL, THAT'S A LIE. BUT I *WON'T* HURT YOU, IF YOU TELL ME WHERE LINDSEY BAKER IS.
I-I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY OF THAT-
MONDO. SEARCH HIS POCKETS.
HOO


I GET IT. IT'S HARD, TRUSTING STRANGERS.


GOOD TO MEET YOU, MR. MERING, OF HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK.
NICE-LOOKING FAMILY.
DOG FAMILY.

SO. NOW THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER A LITTLE BETTER...

...YOU WANT TO TALK BEFORE I RIP YOUR THROAT OUT?

IS THIS—
THE MJTAGEN C FILTER YOU WERE DEVELOPING AT STOCKGEN! I'M CONTINUING YOUR WORK, LINDSEY. OUR WORK.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS A-- FEELS A BIT—
LIKE COM NG HOME?
DISQUIETING. I WAS GO NG TO SAY, DISQUIETING.
BLT YES, I SUPPOSE IT DOES FEEL LIKE COMING HOME, IN A DISQUIETING SORT OF—
WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU, LINDSEY.
LIKE THEY RESCUED ME!
WAIT...
...WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

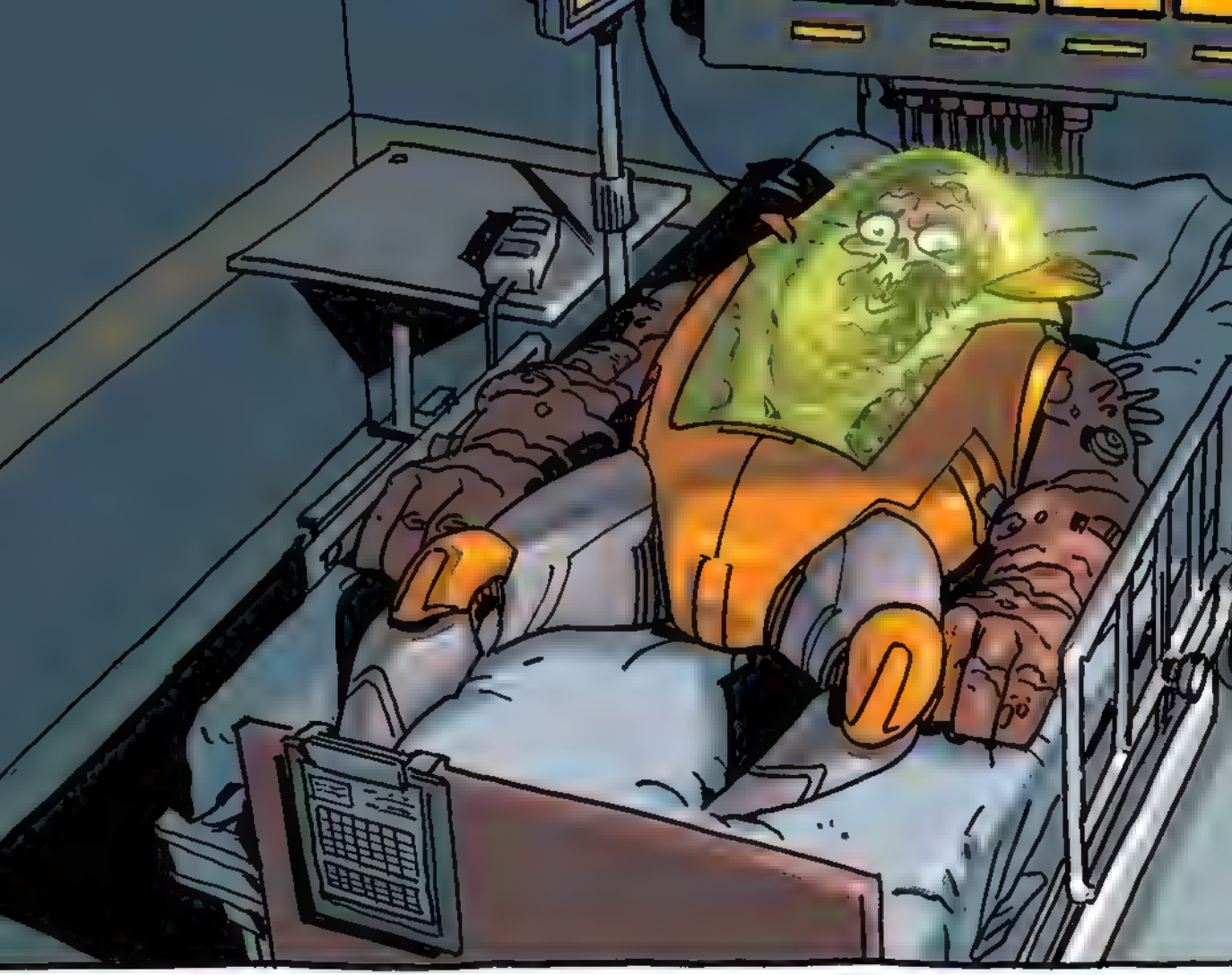
IT'S JUST A LAB, OKAY? AND IT'S PRIVATE PROPERTY. SO YOU NEED TO–
NO. I'VE BEEN IN PLACES LIKE THIS. IT'S NOT A LAB.
IT'S A TORTURE CHAMBER.

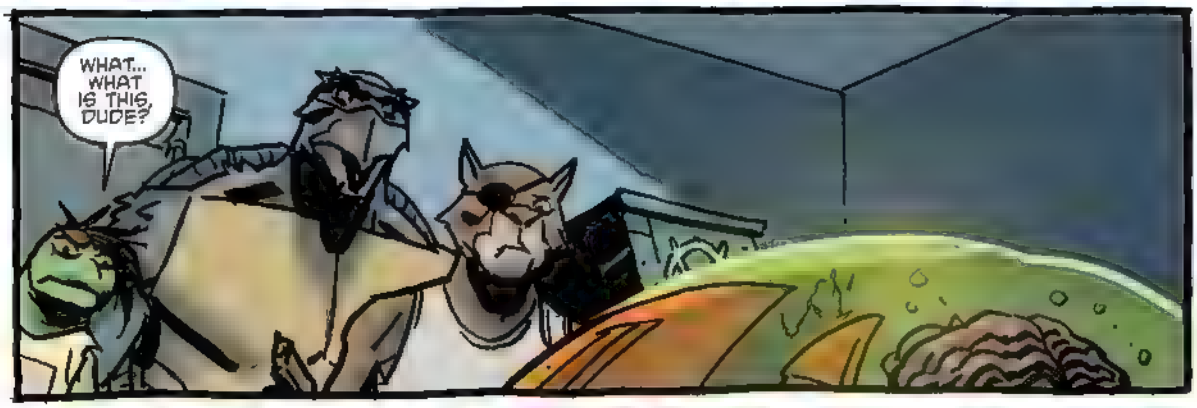
WHERE ARE THE MUTANTS?
I- NOT HERE! THEY'RE NOT HERE!
ALL THIS EQUIPMENT, AND NOT A SINGLE TEST SUBJECT?
I DON'T BE.. EVE YOU.
FIND THE MUTANTS!
AND THEN KILL EVERY DAMNED SCIENTIST IN THIS PLACE.
YOU SHOULD *RUN.*
WELL, *YEAH.*
COME *WITH* ME, LINDSEY.
NO. JUST GET OUT OF HERE, JILLIAN.
FINE! DON'T TRUST ME.
TRUST THE *MUTANTS* WHO ARE ON A *WARPATH* THROUGH MY LAB.

LOADING DOCK
DAMMIT, JILLIAN. ALWAYS MAKING THINGS COMPLICATED.
WHERE'S THAT SCIENTIST BOSS-LADY, LINDSEY?
WHERE'D SHE GO?
SHE WENT THAT WAY... THE BACK OF THE LAB. I-I THINK THERE'S AN EXIT, BACK THERE.
TEAR IT ALL DOWN!

JILLIAN, WAIT! I'M COMING WITH YOU
I TOTALLY KNEW YOU WOULD. I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT AN IDIOT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M CALLING MY BOSS! SO THEY CAN SEND IN THE CAVALRY, OR WHATEVER.
COULDN'T WE WAIT A COUPLE MORE MINUTES? GIVE THEM TIME TO CLEAR OUT?
I—JEEZ, LINDSEY, THEY'RE ATTACKING THE LAB.
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT—
OUR LAB. YOU'RE EITHER WITH ME OR YOU'RE NOT. RIGHT?
NULL INDUSTRIES
ATTACKED?
ATTACKED BY WHAT?
OH. OH... I SEE. YES, OF COURSE.
I'LL INFORM THE CEO.

ANOTHER EMPTY ONE!
BUT I'LL CHECK UNDER THE BED.
THIS ONE'S LOCKED. NONE OF THE OTHER ONES WERE LOCKED.

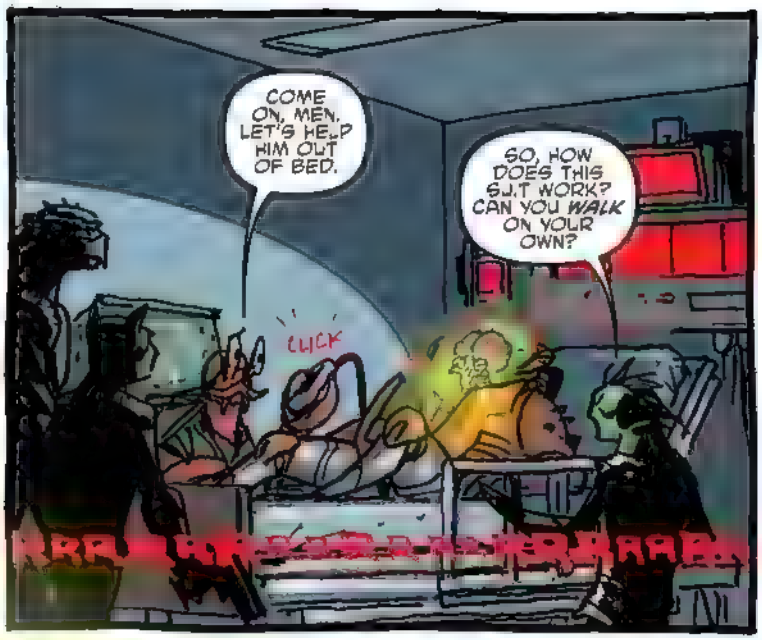


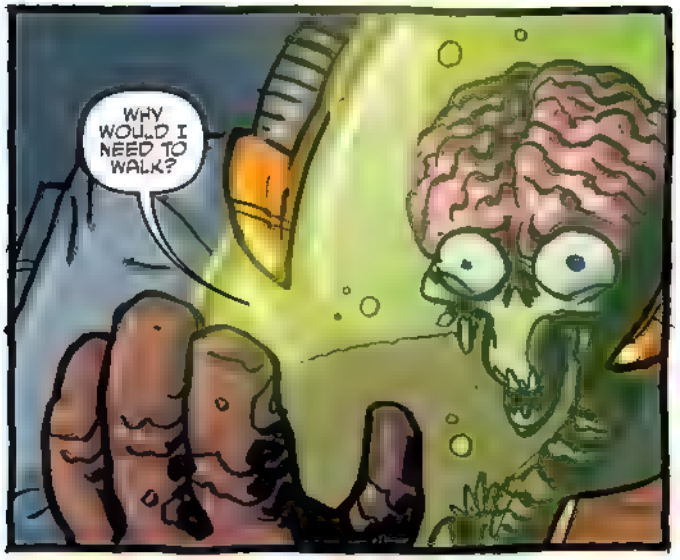

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS, DUDE?

THIS IS A MUTANT "THE MUTAGEN MAN." A HYBRID OF... DOZENS OF ANIMAL TYPES, IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT.
BUT A MUTANT.

JUST LIKE US.
MUTANT

DON'T WORRY, PAL.
WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU.

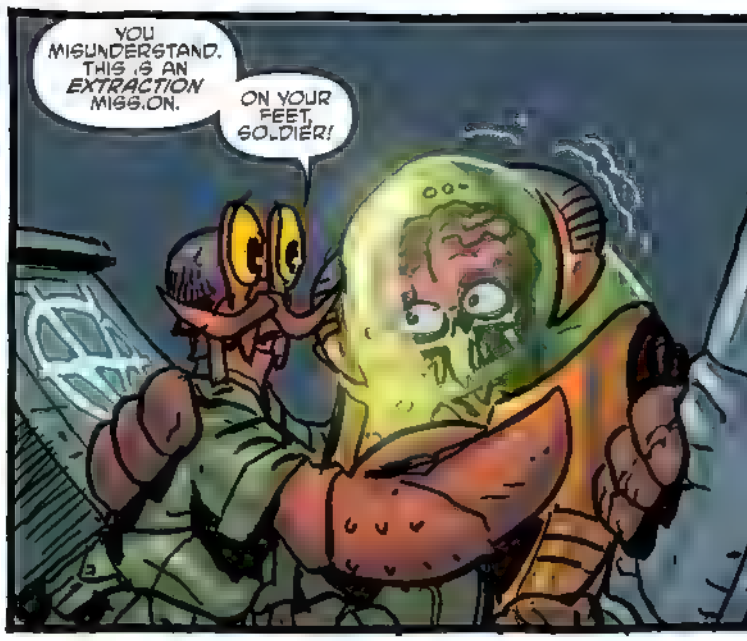

COME ON, MEN. LET'S HELP HIM OUT OF BED.
SO, HOW DOES THIS SHIT WORK? CAN YOU WALK ON YOUR OWN?
CLICK
RRR RRR RRR


WHY WOULD I NEED TO WALK?

YOU SAID YOU'RE HERE TO SAVE ME.

SO SAVE ME.

I... THAT'S NOT WHAT I—


YOU MISUNDERSTAND. THIS IS AN *EXTRACTION* MISSION.
ON YOUR FEET, SOLDIER!

GET HIM IN THE VAN! THE REST OF US ARE GONNA TORCH THIS PLACE!

HEY, UH, HOB?

I'M THINKING THESE DUDES MIGHT NOT LIKE THAT PLAN.

THAT'S QUITE A HEAVY FORCE. A STRATEGIC RETREAT MIGHT BE IN ORDER, SIR.
AND LEAVE THIS LAB STANDING? I DON'T THINK SO.
WE CAN COME BACK AND TORCH THIS PLACE TOMORROW, BOSS. WE HAVE A BIGGER PRIORITY, NOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GET HIM TO SAFETY.

HOLD YOUR FIRE, BOSS'S ORDERS, THEY'VE GOT PRECIOUS CARGO.
NULL
SECURITY

ALL RIGHT.
...

WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A WAR.

BEN BATES

MUTANIMALS #2

LATE-NIGHT POST-BATTLE MUNCHIES? ME TOO, DUDE.
DAIRYLAND
2% MILK
HMM.
HEY... YOU ALL RIGHT THERE, MY MAN?
WHAT? OH. MONDO. YES, I'M FINE.
I'M JUST... NEVER SURE WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF, OFF-DUTY.
I LIVE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AND NEED TO LEARN HOW TO UNWIND DURING R&R.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE NO SUCH PROBLEM.
HA. YEAH, BRO. I KIND OF MADE A LITTLE DEAL WITH MYSELF: I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP HOB, AND FIGHT FOR THE CAUSE, AND ALL THAT RIGHTEOUS NOISE.
BUT THE *REST* OF THE TIME? I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO *RELAX*, AND JUST NOT THINK ABOUT IT.
ESPECIALLY TONIGHT. LOSING LINDSEY WAS SUCH A BUMMER. AND THAT MUTAGEN MAN...
I KNOW THIS ISN'T VERY NICE, BUT THAT DUDE REALLY CREEPS ME OUT. HE SEEMS PRETTY... *DAMAGED*, YOU KNOW?
HE'S JUST LOST, MONDO. HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO POINT HIM BACK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY DID TO HIM IN THAT LAB...

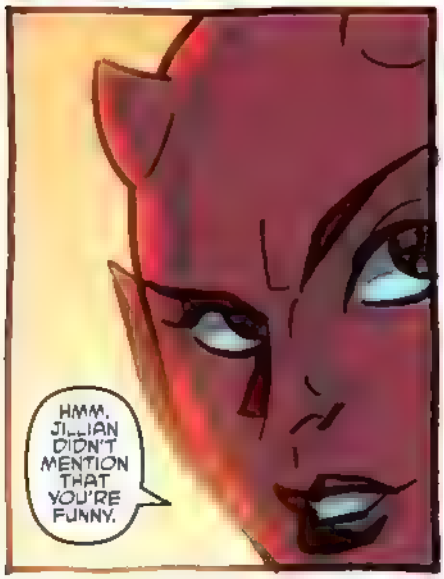
"...OR WHO *THEY* EVEN ARE."
DID YOU KNOW THAT IT ONLY TAKES EIGHT POUNDS OF PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH TO CRACK A HUMAN SKULL?
I... I DID NOT KNOW THAT. BUT I'M CERTAINLY NOT SURPRISED.
OF COURSE NOT. AS A SCIENTIST, YOU UNDERSTAND THE FUNDAMENTAL WEAKNESS OF YOUR SPECIES.
LINDSEY UNDERSTANDS, LIKE, ***EVERYTHING?*** SHE'S THE MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTIST I'VE EVER MET, MADAME NULL. ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF MUTAGEN RESEARCH.
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHY WOULD I STILL NEED YOU?
BECAUSE... BECAUSE YOU CAN'T *TRUST* HER!
NOT WITHOUT ME AROUND TO KEEP THINGS ON TRACK.
WELL, MS. BAKER? ***CAN*** I TRUST YOU?
OF COURSE NOT. WE JUST MET, AND YOU CAN NEVER TRUST ***ANYBODY*** YOU DON'T KNOW.

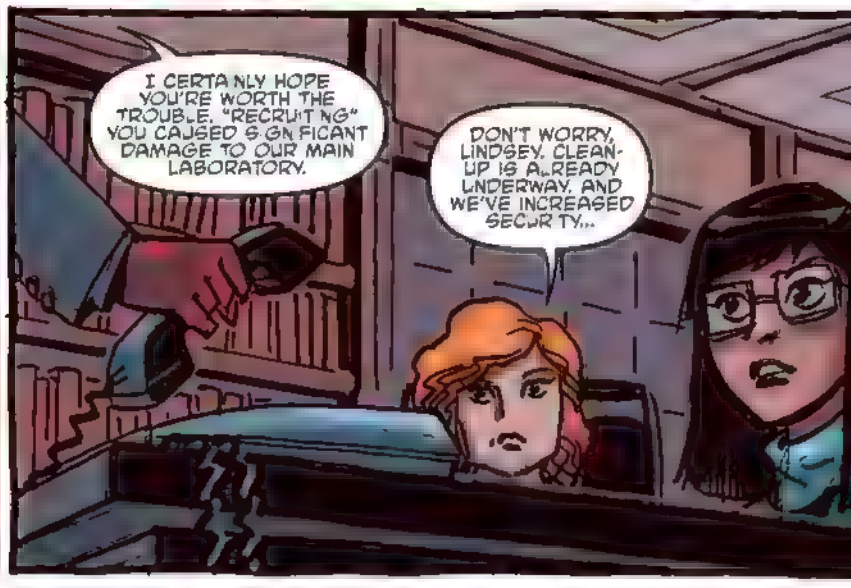
HMM. THAT'S TRUE. YET ANOTHER WEAKNESS OF THE HUMAN RACE.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MA'AM... THIS IS A *VERY* STRANGE CONVERSATION. JILLIAN LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT I WAS HERE TO TALK ABOUT A JOB.
THAT'S WHAT WE *ARE* TALKING ABOUT, MS. BAKER. A JOB THAT INVOLVES PROBING THE LIMITS OF HUMAN ABILITY, AND REPLACING IT WITH SOMETHING BETTER.

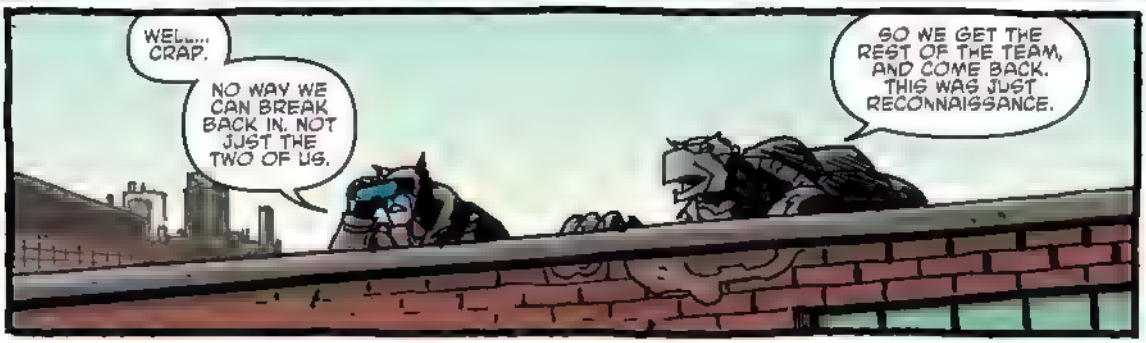
BUT YOU'RE JUST HERE FOR THE *SCIENCE*, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THE CHANCE TO BREAK NEW GROUND IN YOUR FIELD, BACKED BY AN OBSCENE BUDGET AND A TOP-FLIGHT FACILITY.
I THINK WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

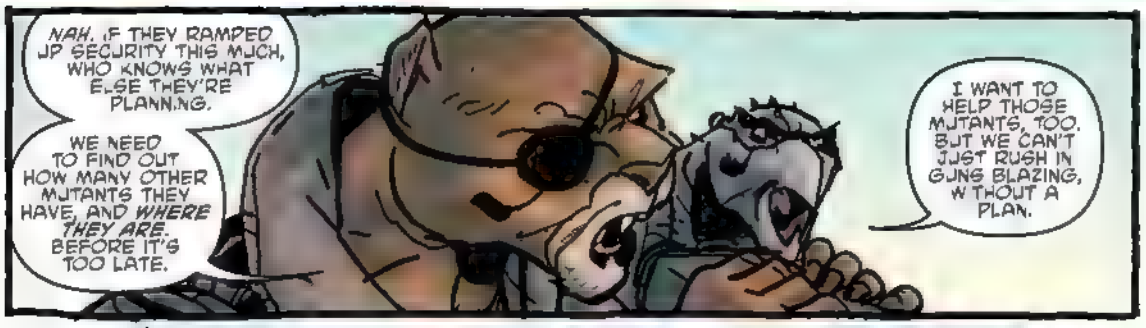
GOOD. I'LL CALL HUMAN RESOURCES, AND WE CAN START YOUR ORIENTATION IMMEDIATELY.
I--I HAVEN'T SAID YES TO THE JOB, YET.

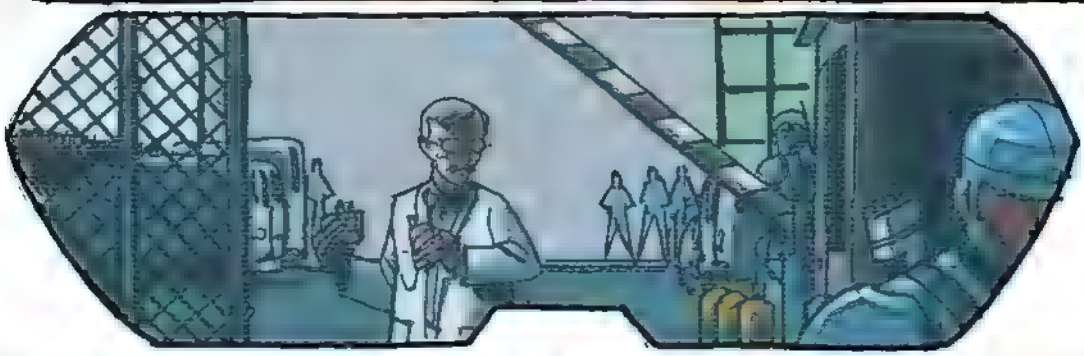

HMM. JILLIAN DIDN'T MENTION THAT YOU'RE FUNNY.

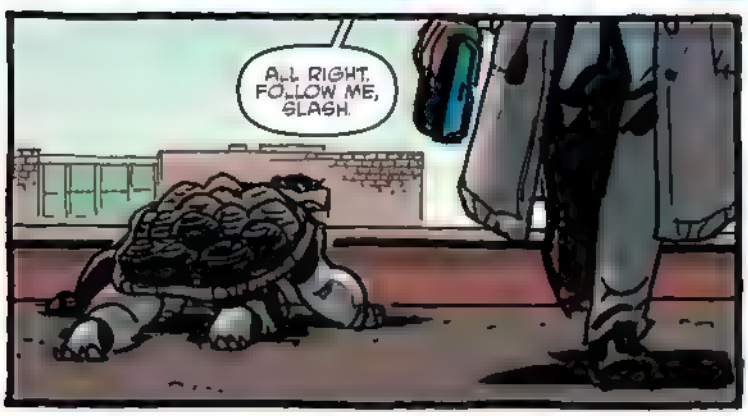

I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU'RE WORTH THE TROUBLE. "RECRUITING" YOU CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO OUR MAIN LABORATORY.
DON'T WORRY, LINDSEY. CLEAN-UP IS ALREADY UNDERWAY, AND WE'VE INCREASED SECURITY...

"ABT"


WEL.... CRAP.
NO WAY WE CAN BREAK BACK IN. NOT JUST THE TWO OF US.
SO WE GET THE REST OF THE TEAM, AND COME BACK. THIS WAS JUST RECONNAISSANCE.


NAH. IF THEY RAMPED UP SECURITY THIS MUCH, WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE THEY'RE PLANNING.
WE NEED TO FIND OUT HOW MANY OTHER MUTANTS THEY HAVE, AND *WHERE THEY ARE*. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
I WANT TO HELP THOSE MUTANTS, TOO. BUT WE CAN'T JUST RUSH IN GUNS BLAZING, W'THOUT A PLAN.




ALL RIGHT. FOLLOW ME, SLASH.

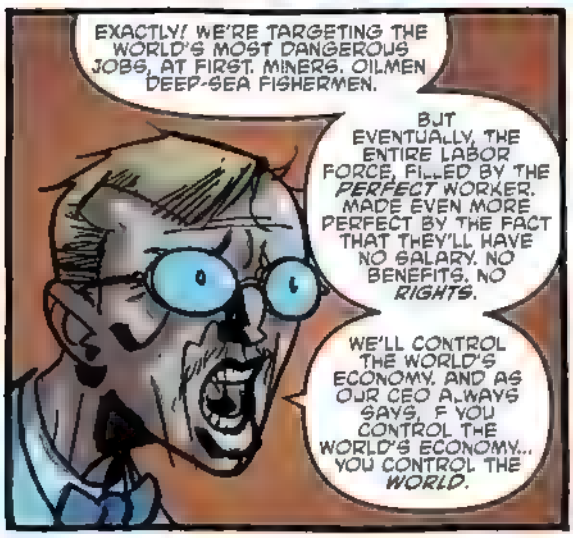
YOU WANT A PLAN? I GOT US A PLAN.

MUTAGEN MAN! GOOD MORNING, SOLDIER.
I'M SORRY. I WOKE UP AND THERE WAS NO ONE THERE TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO, SO I LEFT MY ROOM.
I... I HOPE THAT'S OKAY.
OF COURSE! APOLOGIES FOR NOT CHECKING ON YOU SOONER.
I'M JUST INSPECTING OUR ARMS. ONE OF MY DAILY DUTIES AS THE SELF-APPOINTED QUARTERMASTER FOR OUR LITTLE GROUP.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP MIND AND BODY BUSY, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THE SCIENTISTS AT THE LAB KEPT ME VERY BUSY. BUT NOW...
...WHAT SHOULD I... PLEASE TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO, NOW.
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, BRO. BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD START BY COMING OVER HERE, AND PLAYING A LITTLE DRAGON WAGON!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THIS. IS IT A TEST? AN EXPER MENT?
IT'S A GAME, YOU KNOW, FOR FUN? HAVEN'T YOU EVER...
NEVER MIND, MUTAGEN MAN.
OKAY, I'VE GOTTA SAY SOMETHING. JUST GOTTA BE TOTALLY HONEST, I FEEL SUPER WE RD CALL NG YOJ "MUTAGEN MAN." DON'T YOU HAVE, LIKE, A NORMAL NAME?
NO. I'VE NEVER NEEDED ONE.
ALL RIGHT. IN THAT CASE, I'M GONNA CALL YOU... SEYMOUR GJTZ.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
NO.
BECAUSE WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I CAN SEE MORE GUTS!
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY...
...OH!
HA HA HA

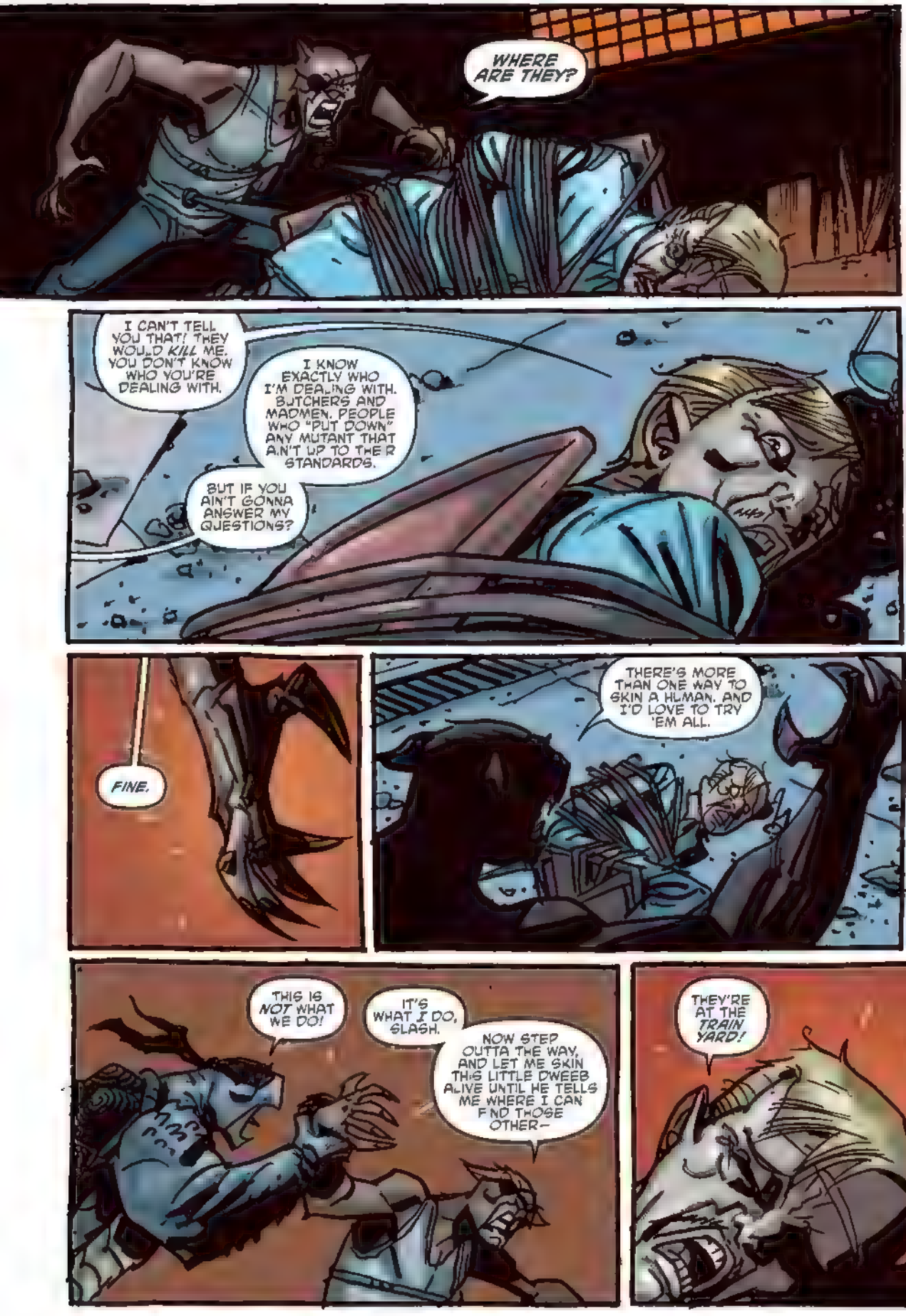
HA! YOU HEAR THAT, SLASH? IT'S "COMPLICATED." I THINK HE'S CALLING US A COUPLE OF DUMMIES.
WE'RE PRETTY SMART GUYS. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP UP.
...WELL? KEEP TALKIN'.

NULL... NULL IS OBSESSED WITH "ELIMINATING HUMAN WEAKNESS."
OUR WORK STEMS FROM A BELIEF THAT HUMAN WORKERS ARE FRAGILE. COWARDLY. INEFFICIENT. THEY'RE A LIABILITY TO THEIR EMPLOYER.
OUR DIVISION IS WORKING TO CREATE MUTANT HYBRIDS. DEVELOPING THE PERFECT CREATURE FOR ANY OCCUPATION.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAKING A HYBRID MUTANT? A REGULAR MUTANT IS ALREADY STRONGER THAN A HUMAN. THEY COULD DO ANY JOB JUST FINE.
BUT THEY WANT MORE THAN FINE.
A MUTANT BAT IN YOUR COAL MINES IS GOOD. BUT A MUTANT WITH THE *DNA* OF A BAT, AN ANT, *AND* A GORILLA...


EXACTLY! WE'RE TARGETING THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS JOBS, AT FIRST. MINERS. OILMEN DEEP-SEA FISHERMEN.
BUT EVENTUALLY, THE ENTIRE LABOR FORCE, FILLED BY THE *PERFECT* WORKER. MADE EVEN MORE PERFECT BY THE FACT THAT THEY'LL HAVE NO SALARY. NO BENEFITS. NO *RIGHTS*.
WE'LL CONTROL THE WORLD'S ECONOMY. AND AS OUR CEO ALWAYS SAYS, IF YOU CONTROL THE WORLD'S ECONOMY... YOU CONTROL THE *WORLD*.

IT'S AN INSANE PLAN, BY INSANE PEOPLE.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU?
ME? NO.
I'M JUST A GUY WITH A MORTGAGE

HEY. I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THE NJLL GROUP'S BUSINESS PLAN.
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE MUTANTS ARE.
WHAT?
THE REST OF THE MUTANTS IN THAT LAB.
YOJ EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU USED ALL THAT SPACE FOR ONE EXPERIMENT? NO.
THERE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MORE. BUT WE... WE COULDN'T PERFECT THE PROCESS. JILLIAN—DR. AMANTE— SHE TR ED, BJT THE RESULTS WERE... HORR B..E.
THEY WERE FAILED EXPERIMENTS. MOST OF THEM D ED. OR WE PUT THEM DOWN.
THERE ARE ONLY TWO LEFT, BESIDES THE ONE YOU RESCUED.
TWO LEFT...
TWO?!


WHERE ARE THEY?
I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT! THEY WOULD KILL ME. YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHO I'M DEALING WITH. BUTCHERS AND MADMEN. PEOPLE WHO "PUT DOWN" ANY MUTANT THAT AIN'T UP TO THEIR STANDARDS.
BUT IF YOU AIN'T GONNA ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?
FINE.
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A HUMAN. AND I'D LOVE TO TRY 'EM ALL.
THIS IS NOT WHAT WE DO!
IT'S WHAT I DO, SLASH.
NOW STEP OUTTA THE WAY, AND LET ME SKIN THIS LITTLE DWEEB ALIVE UNTIL HE TELLS ME WHERE I CAN FIND THOSE OTHER—
THEY'RE AT THE TRAIN YARD!

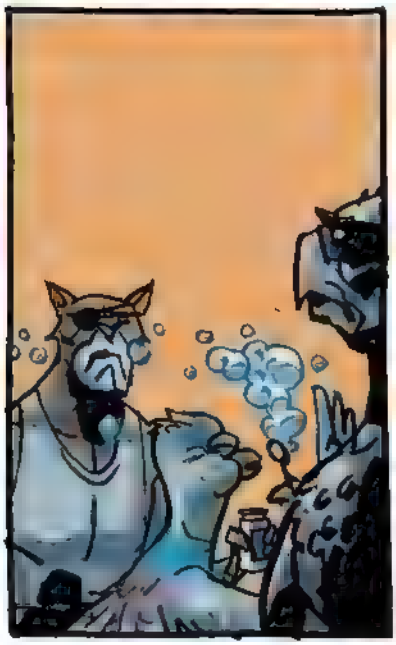
THE MUTANTS ARE BEING HELD IN A TRAIN YARD, IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.
A PROPERTY OWNED BY THE NULL GROUP'S UTILITIES DIVISION.
THEY'RE GOING TO BE TRANSPORTED SOON.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW! I SWEAR TO YOU, THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
SEE? I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING.
AND DON'T WORRY, BUDDY.
I'M NOT GONNA SLICE YOU APART, AFTER ALL.
NO!
FINE. JUST MAKE SURE HE'S WRAPPED UP TIGHT.

GATHER UP, EVERYBODY! SLASH, I NEED YOU TO CHECK PROPERTY RECORDS, FIND OUT WHERE THIS TRAIN YARD IS.
WHAT'S THE PLAN ONCE WE GET THERE?

FIND THE OTHER MUTANTS AND BRING THEM THE HELL BACK.
AND KILL ANYONE WHO GETS IN OUR WAY?
SURE.

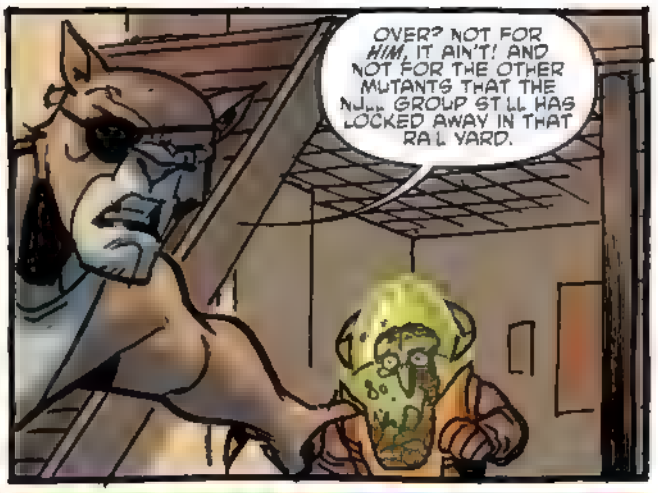
HOB... WE SHOULDN'T BE USING VIOLENCE AS A FIRST RESORT. YOU NEED TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.
STOP. I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE, SLASH. BUT THERE'S A REASON WHY I'M THE LEADER, AND—
SO *LEAD* US. BUT REMEMBER THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *HEROES*. LIKE MICHELANGELO, AND THE REST OF THE TURTLES.
SO LET'S ACT LIKE HEROES, AND NOT LIKE A BUNCH OF *TERRORISTS*.

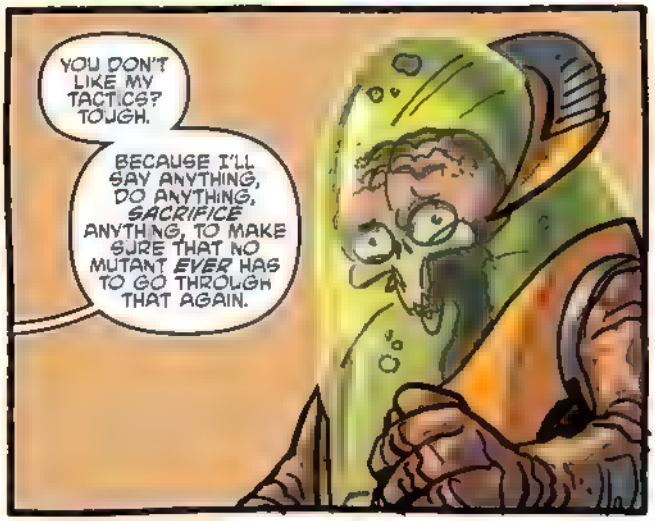
TERRORISTS? HOW *DARE* YOU CALL ME—



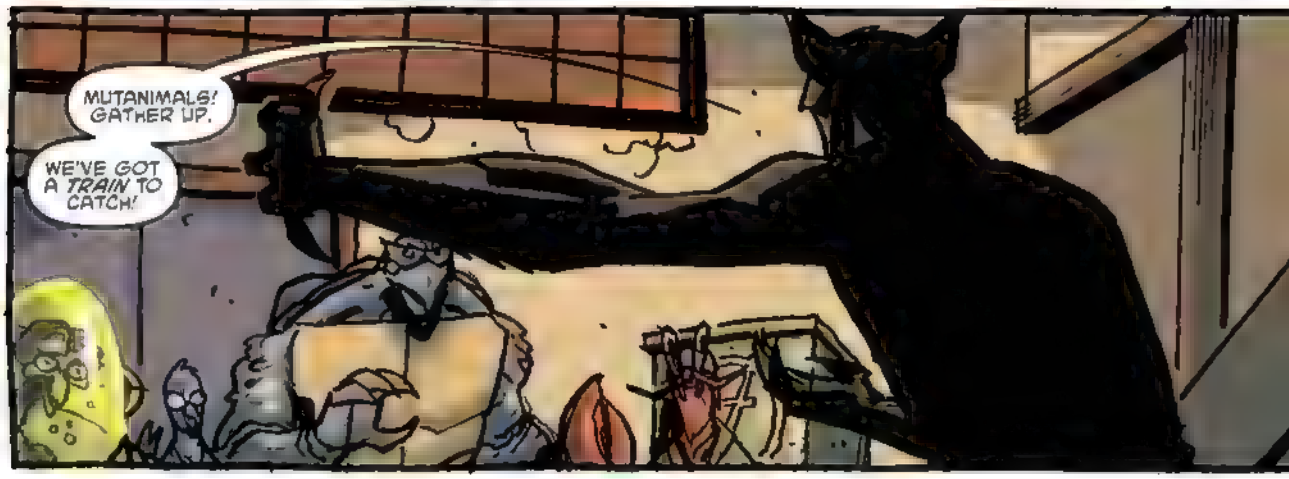
—HOW *DARE* YOU CALL ME A TERRORIST. I'M JUST DOING WHAT I *HAVE* TO DO.
DO YOU *REMEMBER* WHAT THEY D D TO JS AT STOCKGEN? DO YOU REMEMBER BE NG EXPERIMENTED ON? BEING TESTED? BEING TORTJRED? *EVERY DAMN DAY?*

OF COURSE I DO. AND I WENT THROUGH ALL OF THAT A LOT LONGER THAN YOU DID, HOB.
EXACTLY! SO YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND.
BUT IT'S OVER NOW. AND IF WE RESORT TO THOSE SAME TACTICS—


OVER? NOT FOR HIM, IT AIN'T! AND NOT FOR THE OTHER MUTANTS THAT THE NJLL GROUP STILL HAS LOCKED AWAY IN THAT RAIL YARD.

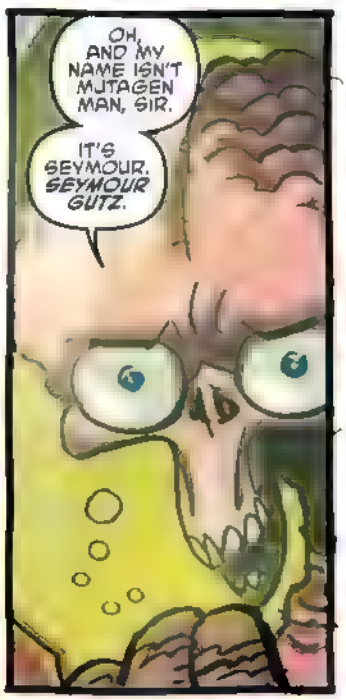

YOU DON'T LIKE MY TACTICS? TOUGH.
BECAUSE I'LL SAY ANYTHING, DO ANYTHING, SACRIFICE ANYTHING, TO MAKE SURE THAT NO MUTANT EVER HAS TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULDN'T HELP THEM. BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT THE RIGHT WAY. OTHERWISE WE'RE NO BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE WHO—
ENOUGH!
JUST BECAUSE YOU AIN'T AN IMBECILE ANYMORE, THAT DON'T MEAN YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.


MUTANIMALS! GATHER UP.
WE'VE GOT A TRAIN TO CATCH!

LISTEN, MUTAGEN MAN. YOU DON'T NEED TO COME ALONG WITH US.
IF YOU AIN'T READY FOR THIS KIND OF FIELD WORK, NO ONE'S GONNA JUDGE YOU.

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID IN THERE. AND YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S NOT OVER.
THE SCIENTISTS KEPT ME IN ISOLATION. I NEVER MET ANY OF THE OTHER MUTANTS THEY HAD, BUT IF THEY'RE OUT THERE, I WANT TO HELP THEM. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO. BUT I WANT TO DO *SOMETHING*.


OH, AND MY NAME ISN'T MUTAGEN MAN, SIR.
IT'S SEYMOUR. *SEYMOUR GUTZ*.

UHM... OKAY?

RAIL YARD.
ALL RIGHT... WE'LL STAY TOGETHER UNTIL WE FIND THE MUTANTS. LET'S ALL WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS, AND—
BLAM
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! SOMEONE IS SHOOTING OUT OUR TIRES!
OR IT COULD BE FIREWORKS!
IT AIN'T FIREWORKS, PETE.
I KNEW WE WEREN'T PROPERLY PREPARED FOR THIS MISSION.
NOT THE DAMNED TIME, SLASH!

THIS WAY!
NJ... SECJRITY FORCES, HOLD YOUR FIRE!
SIR! I BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN LED INTO A TRAP, S R.

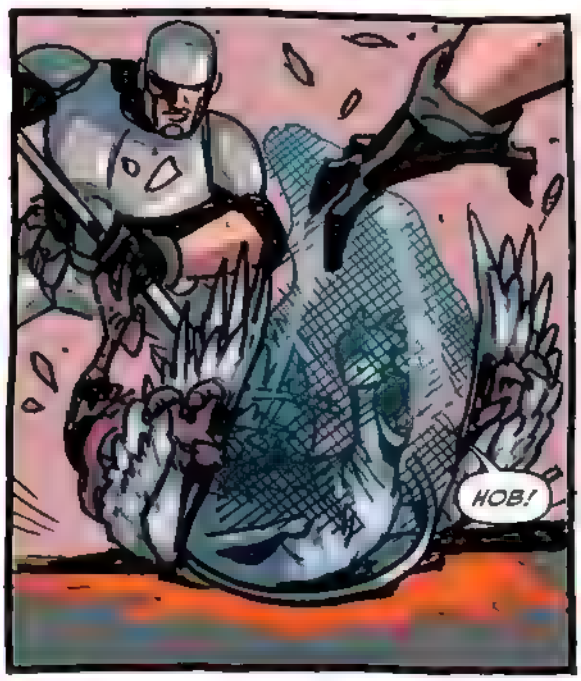
WHAT A CLEVER CRUSTACEAN YOU HAVE THERE.
OH, NO. IT'S HER. IT'S NULL!
YES, IT'S ME, MUTAGEN MAN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING BACK TO US, AND FOR BRINGING ALONG THESE MIGHTY MUTANTS WHO HAVE BEEN CAUSING ME SO MUCH TROUBLE.
IF I CAN OFFER A PROFESSIONAL TIP?
THE NEXT TIME YOU TORTURE A SCIENTIST FOR INFORMATION, MAKE SURE YOU ASK HIM TO KEEP IT A SECRET.
I WAS WRONG. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP.
NOW THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE ME BACK. THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE ME BACK TO THE LAB.
NO...
...THEY AIN'T.
BLAM

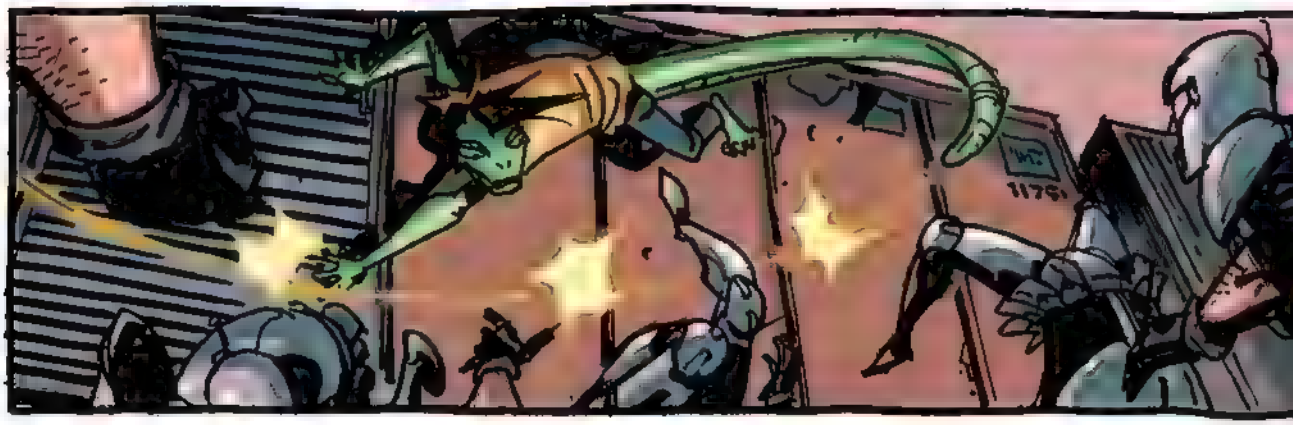
BLAM BLAM BLAM
HUH. I GOTTA ADMIT, I KIND OF EXPECTED MORE OF A REACTION FROM YOU FELLAS.
WHAT WITH KILLIN' YOUR BOSS AND ALL.
WRONG, YOU STUPID CAT. YOU CAN'T KILL ME.
BUT THAT HURT LIKE HELL.
TAKE THEM!
NEUTRALIZE THE CRAB, FIRST!
NULL

SIR, I'M BLIND, SIR!
I CANNOT PROVIDE ARTILLERY SUPPORT!

GET TO SAFETY, HERMAN! WE CAN—

WHUMPH!


HOB!



PLEASE... PLEASE MAKE THIS STOP. PLEASE MAKE THIS...
YOU CAN KEEP IT COMING, BUT WE'RE NEVER GO NG TO STOP FIGHTING!
NO, SLASH! F YOJ CAN RUN... RUN!
SOMEONE NEEDS TO ESCAPE.
SOMEONE NEEDS TO RESCUE JS...

" AND THE OTHERS "
NRR 505
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
A CONFLAGRATION OF SOME SORT, SALLY.
YEAH, RAY... I FIGURED THAT MUCH OUT ON MY OWN.
IF SOMEONE'S FIGHTING NULL, SHOULDN'T WE BE TRYING TO HELP THEM OUT? THE ENEMY OF OUR ENEMY, AND ALL THAT?
HOW? WE'RE IN A CAGE, SALLY
WE DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO. WAIT. STRATEGIZE. STRIKE WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
BUT WE NEVER GET TO THAT LAST PART, DO WE?

MUTANTS.

MONDO. I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT OUT.
WE NEED TO GET THEM BACK. HOB AND THE REST OF THEM.
HOW? THAT NULL LADY, SHE'S COMPLETELY CRAZY, BRO! SHE'S A CRAZY PERSON WITH AN *ARMY*.
AND WHAT ARE WE? JUST TWO DUDES. WE DON'T HAVE THE VAN. WE DON'T HAVE OUR TEAM. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, MAN? WHAT ARE WE GONNA *DO*?
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? WE'RE GONNA DO WHAT WE'RE *SUPPOSED* TO DO.
WE'RE GONNA BE GOOD GUYS. WE'RE GONNA BE HEROES.
WE'RE GONNA BE THE *MIGHTY MUTANIMALS!*
...OW

art by BEN GATES

MUTANIMALS #3

ALL RIGHT. I THINK I HAVE IT FIGURED OUT.
FIRST, WE'LL SECURE THE RAILROAD CAR. THEN WE'LL WORK TO UNDO THE COUPLINGS, AND SEPARATE IT FROM THE REST OF THE TRAIN.
NO CASUALTIES. MINIMAL VIOLENCE.
WE'RE HEROES.
AND WE'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE IT.
THAT WAS FAST! MONDO, WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO—
WE'RE HEROES, BIG MAN!
JUST FOCUS ON THAT PART.

RAY! ANOTHER ONE'S WAKING UP!

HEY THERE. I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.
THE GOOD NEWS IS... WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M WORKING ON A RESCUE PLAN MYSELF.
I JUST NEED TO MAKE IT TO THE LOCOMOTIVE, AND THEN I CAN DRIVE US ALL RIGHT ON OUT OF HERE.
I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY FRIEND, *SALLY PRIDE*. THE SCIENTISTS RAN HER THROUGH DOZENS OF FLIGHT AND DRIVING SIMULATORS, TESTING MUTANT REFLEXES, AND LEARNING ABILITIES. NOW SHE THINKS SHE CAN DRIVE *ANYTHING*.
BUT YOU CAN'T DRIVE A *TRAIN* TO SAFETY, SALLY. IT'S ON A *TRACK*.

I CAN FIND A WAY.

MUTANIMALS! ARE THE REST OF YOU A-- R GHT?

SIR, YES SIR. I DID A HEADCOUNT WHILE YOU WERE STILL UNCONSCIOUS. EVERYONE HERE IS INTACT AND UNHARMED.
WELL...
PHYSICALLY UNHARMED, SIR.
BETWEEN YOU AND ME, YOUR GUY OVER THERE IS RIGHT TO BE SCARED. THEY'RE TAKING HIM BACK TO THE LAB. BUT THEY'RE DONE TESTING RAY AND I.
THEY PLAN TO SELL US TO SOME CRIMINAL MASTERMIND. THE FOOT CLUB, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. YOU'RE PROBABLY HEADED THERE, TOO.
THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO HELP ME GET TO THE LOCOMOTIVE. THEN WE CAN—
...WE'RE TWO SHORT. WHERE ARE MONDO AND SLASH?
CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. BUT I BELIEVE THEY ESCAPED, SIR.
ESCAPED.
DON'T WORRY.
"WE'RE GONNA BE OKAY."
RAIL

THIS IS THE ONE!
505

ALL RIGHT, SLASH. SO, LIKE, HOW DO WE GET FROM *HERE* TO *THERE?*
WE JUMP!
THAT'S... THAT'S A PRETTY BURLY JUMP, BRO. I DON'T SEE HOW—

—HEY! WHAT ARE YOU—

HEAVILY

SEE? PLENTY OF ROOM TO SPARE.
LEVEL
J-QUE

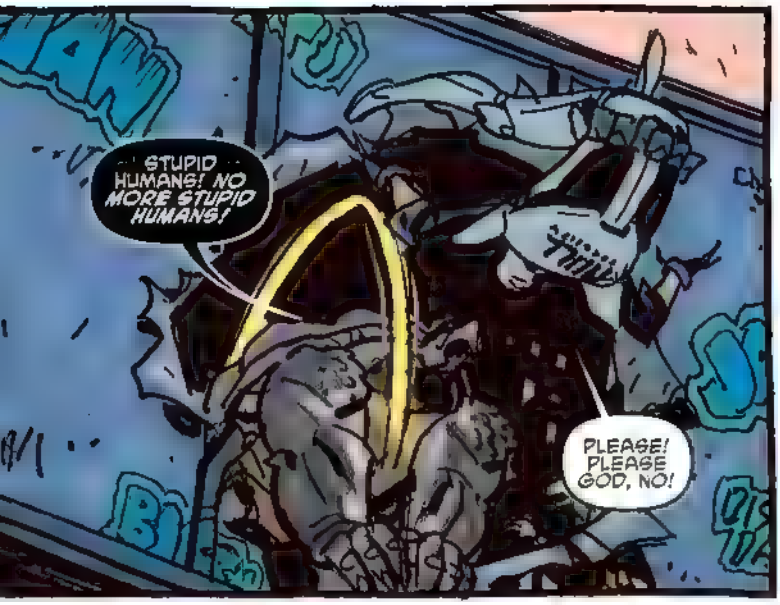
FWIP

SLASH.
MONDO.
GLAD YOU MADE IT TO THE DANCE.
WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT, HOB. AND LISTEN—
LATER. JUST GET US OUT OF HERE.
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE UNDUE CONCERN, BUT— DOES ANYBODY ELSE HEAR FOOTSTEPS?
FWOOM
AHH!

YOU THINK A COUPLE OF GUARDS ARE ENOUGH TO BUST UP THE—
—OH... OKAY.
SLASH, WE MAY NEED TO DO A ONE-EIGHTY ON THAT "MINIMAL VIOLENCE" THING!
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING FOR "MAXIMAL VIOLENCE!"
AAAAAAH!
HEY! COME CLOSER! COME CLOSER, YOU GUYS! THIS ISN'T A FAIR FIGHT!
PETE'S :GRRK: RIGHT! WE'LL TAKE ANY OF YOU DUDES, ONE ON ONE!
OR TWO ON ONE! I'D SETTLE FOR THAT!
MONDO!

GET HIM IN!
WE'RE ENGH! TRYING!
HE MUST WEIGH A TON!
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO THIS WAY. WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS...
WE'RE...
NULL

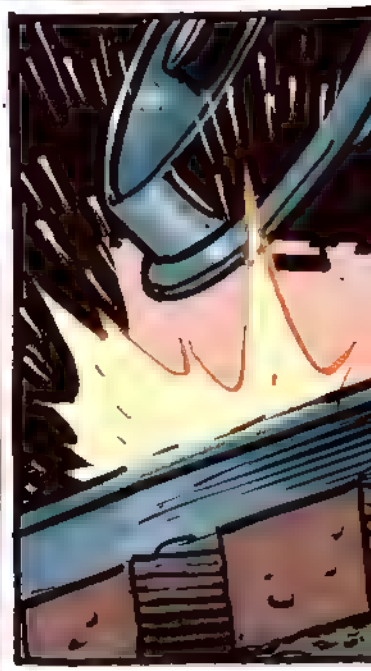
RRRRRRRRGGGGH!
TAKE HIM DOWN! TAKE HIM DOWN!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK WE'RE TRYING TO-
NO MORE PAIN! NO MORE CAGE!
NO MORE!
AHH!
KRRSH
TING
WHAM

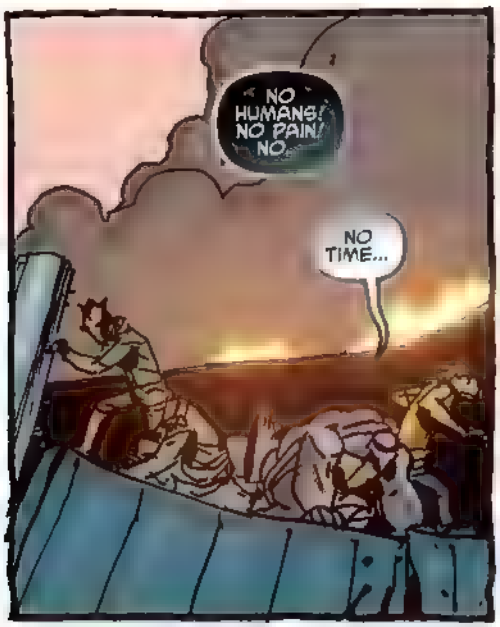

STUPID HUMANS! NO MORE STUPID HUMANS!
PLEASE! PLEASE GOD, NO!

DUDE...

HHHRRRRGH!

CRASH



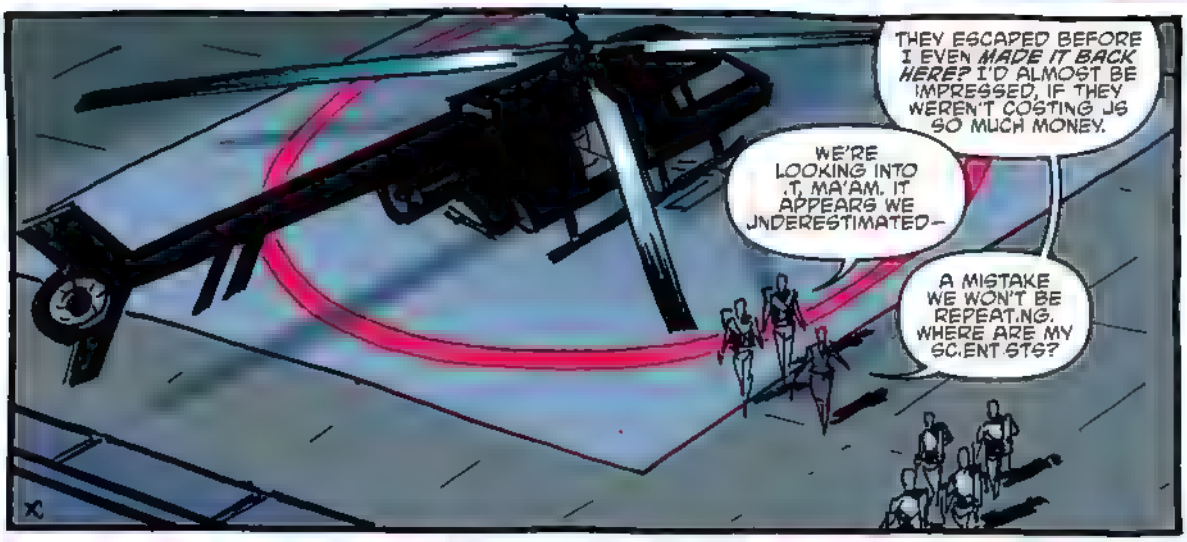

NO HUMANS! NO PAIN! NO...
NO TIME...

...WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, MONDO, WHY DON'T YOU—
WHOA! STAY BACK, SLASH. JUST *STAY BACK.*
WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT'S *WRONG?* YOU WERE ACTING LIKE A MONSTER TWO SECONDS AGO, DUDE! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
OF COURSE I DO. AND THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. WE ALREADY KNEW THAT MY NEWFOUND INTELLIGENCE MIGHT BE *UNSTABLE.*
THE STRESS OF BATTLE *INCREASED* MY ADRENAL OUTPUT AND ALTERED MY PHYSIOLOGY.

BUT I'M FINE, NOW.
...
I'M FINE.

NULL


THEY ESCAPED BEFORE I EVEN *MADE IT BACK HERE?* I'D ALMOST BE IMPRESSED, IF THEY WEREN'T COSTING US SO MUCH MONEY.
WE'RE LOOKING INTO IT, MA'AM. IT APPEARS WE UNDERESTIMATED—
A MISTAKE WE WON'T BE REPEATING. WHERE ARE MY SCIENTISTS?

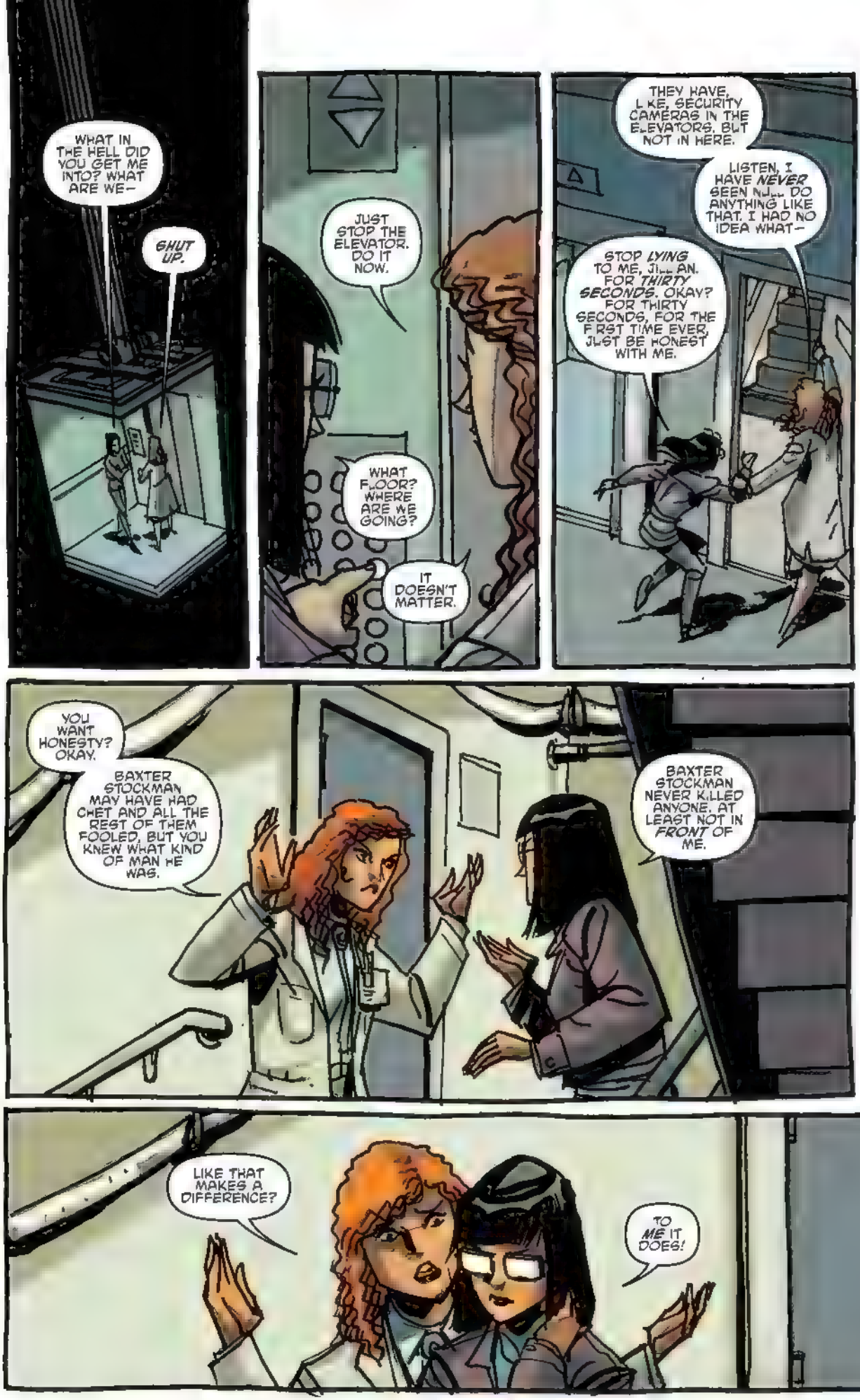
LIKE, RIGHT OVER HERE? MA'AM.
AS OF NOW WE OFFICIALLY HAVE NO REMAINING MUTANTS. BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO BACK DOWN. WE'RE GOING TO *SPEED UP.*
I WANT OUR FIRST HYBRID PROTOTYPES BY THE NEXT FISCAL QUARTER I WANT THEM ON THE MARKET BY—

MA'AM, I— I DON'T WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS. I'VE DECIDED.
LINDSEY, *DON'T.* I TOLD YOU—
AFTER HEARING MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIMENTS, ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED... I'D LIKE TO THINK I HAVE A HEALTHY AMOUNT OF AMORALITY, BUT—

MY GOD, YOU HUMANS AND YOUR STUPID SENTIMENTALITY.

THIS TECHNOLOGY EXISTS. IT'S OUT THERE.
AND IF A TECHNOLOGY EXISTS, IT WILL BE CORRUPTED, AND IT WILL BE MONETIZED. DO YOU AGREE?
WE....
OF COURSE YOU DO. AND IF THAT'S THE CASE— IF IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, ANYWAY -- THEN IT MAKES NO SENSE TO LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT.
WHATEVER ETHICAL PROBLEMS YOU HAVE, WHATEVER SINS YOU PERCEIVE, WILL STILL EXIST WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER YOU BENEFIT.
AND IF THAT DOESN'T SWAY YOU... THERE ARE SIXTY FLOORS BETWEEN US AND THE STREET.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ARGUE WITH ME RIGHT NOW?
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THIS ROUTINE OF YOURS WEARS THIN VERY QUICKLY.
ROUTINE?
YES, YOU LIKE TO INTIMIDATE PEOPLE. WITH YOUR HORNS AND YOUR RED SKIN, AND ALL THESE LITTLE HINTS THAT YOU'RE SOME GREAT EVIL. THE DEVIL. METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING.
BUT IT'S ALL BLUSTER. AND IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK ON ME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, LINDSEY. YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY BE *USEFUL* WITH THAT BIG BRAIN OF YOURS.
BUT EVEN WITH THAT BIG BRAIN, YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION YOU'RE IN.
IF YOU TRY TO RUN... IF YOU TRY TO BETRAY ME... OR IF THE TIME COMES WHEN I DECIDE YOU'RE *NOT* USEFUL...
GO BACK TO THE LAB. WORK WITH JILLIAN.
TELL HER EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT MONSTERS AND MUTANTS.
TELL HER ALL YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SCIENTIFIC SECRETS.
OR I WILL CRACK YOUR HEAD OPEN AND PULL THEM OUT MYSELF.
METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING.

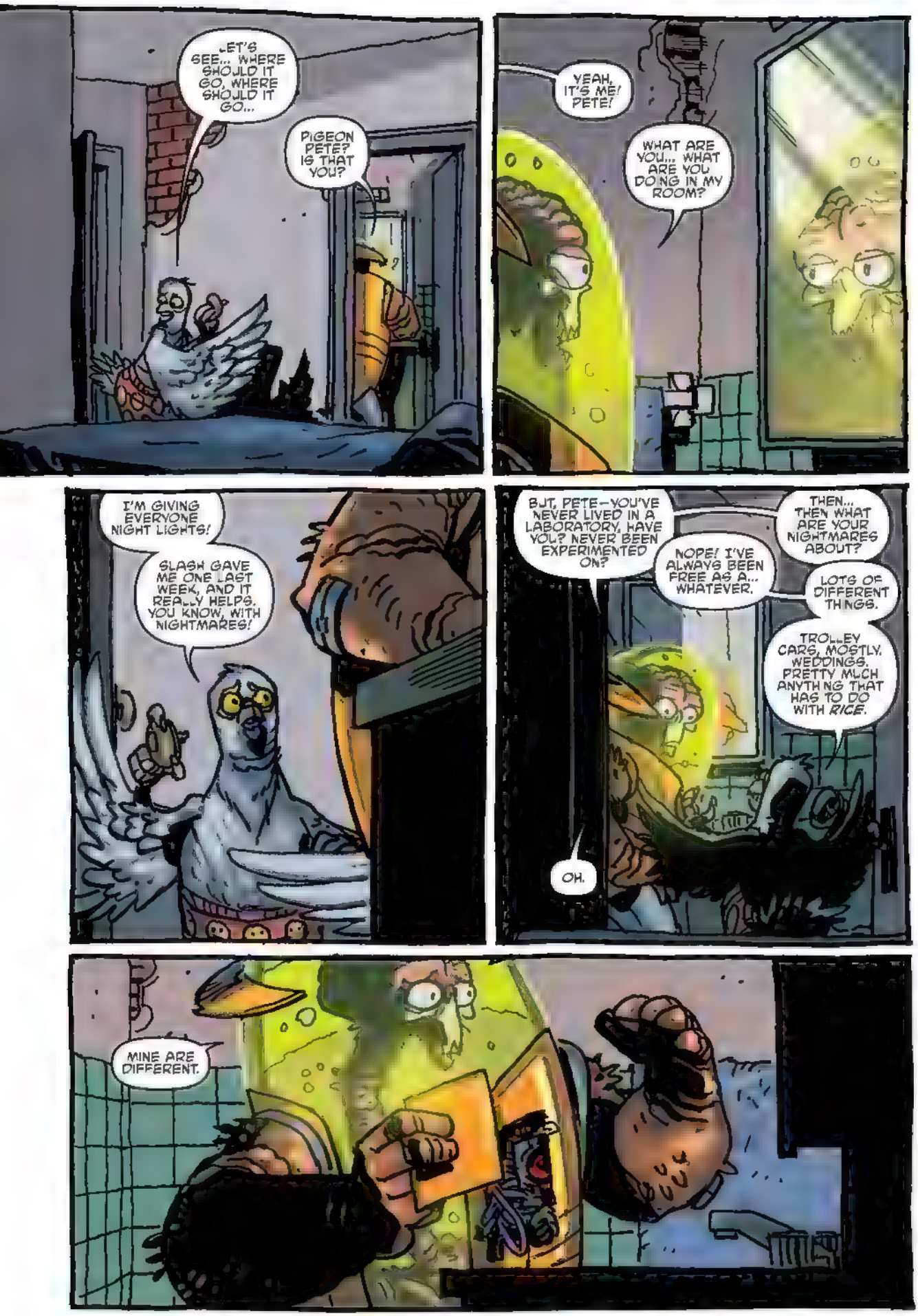

WHAT IN THE HELL DID YOU GET ME INTO? WHAT ARE WE—
SHUT UP.
JUST STOP THE ELEVATOR. DO IT NOW.
WHAT FLOOR? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THEY HAVE, LIKE, SECURITY CAMERAS IN THE ELEVATORS, BUT NOT IN HERE.
LISTEN, I HAVE NEVER SEEN JILL DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT—
STOP LYING TO ME, JILL AN. FOR THIRTY SECONDS. OKAY? FOR THIRTY SECONDS, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, JUST BE HONEST WITH ME.
YOU WANT HONESTY? OKAY.
BAXTER STOCKMAN MAY HAVE HAD CHET AND ALL THE REST OF THEM FOOLED, BUT YOU KNEW WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS.
BAXTER STOCKMAN NEVER KILLED ANYONE. AT LEAST NOT IN FRONT OF ME.
LIKE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?
TO ME IT DOES!

YOU GRABBED ME OFF THE STREET. TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE AMAZING LAB, THE UNLIMITED RESOURCES. THE *SCIENCE*.
YOU PLAYED ME. YOU KNEW *JUST* HOW TO PLAY ME. YOU ALWAYS DID.
I DIDN'T–
YOUR THIRTY SECONDS OF HONESTY AREN'T UP, JILLIAN.
FINE. YEAH, I PLAYED YOU. TOTALLY. BUT ONLY BECAUSE I *NEED* YOU!
DO YOU THINK I LIKE WORKING FOR ***BEELZEBABE?*** YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT'S RIGHT, WHO CAN FIGURE THINGS OUT.
I THOUGHT ONCE YOU WERE IN, THEN TOGETHER WE COULD–
SO YOU DRAGGED ME INTO QUICKSAND, KNOWING THAT I WOULD BE FORCED TO HELP YOU GET OUT.
YEAH... MAYBE. BUT NOW WE'RE SINKING.
MA'AMS?
I'VE BEEN ASKED TO ESCORT YOU TO THE LOBBY.
AND THEN BACK TO YOUR LAB.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY MY FRIENDS... WHY EVERYONE REACTED THAT WAY.
BECAUSE THEY WERE SCARED, SLASH. SIMPLE AS THAT.
WHAT IF WE HADN'T BEEN BEHIND THOSE BARS?
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE ONE OF US--MAYBE ALL OF US--WOULD'VE ENDED UP GETTING SHOVED THROUGH THE WALL OF THAT TRAIN CAR.
I'VE SEEN YOU SCRAPE IT UP AGAINST SOME MIGHTY BIG ODDS BEFORE.
BUT I AIN'T NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THAT. LIKE YOU WERE OUT OF CONTROL.
OUT OF CONTROL... I... I WISH IT WAS THAT SIMPLE, HOB.
WHEN THEY WERE SHOVING THAT CAGE DOOR CLOSED, I FELT SOMETHING COME OVER ME. AND I TRIED TO FIGHT IT.
THEN I LOOKED AT ALL OF YOU, LOCKED IN YOUR CAGES... AND I LET GO. I LET MYSELF LOSE CONTROL.
I'M A MONSTER. ALL THAT TALK ABOUT HOW WE NEED TO BE BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE WE'RE FIGHTING. BUT IN THE END...
...I'M AS BAD AS THEM!
YOU LISTEN TO ME. I MAY NOT AGREE WITH YOU ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD BE FIGHTING THIS WAR. BUT DON'T YOU DARE SAY YOU'RE AS BAD AS THEM.
THAT AIN'T TRUE, BROTHER. AND IT NEVER WILL BE.

SO, AH, THAT ENDS THE TOUR! I'LL GO GET YOUR BEDS READY AND IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, JUST ASK. I'M PETE! NOT SURE IF I MENTIONED THAT.
REPEATEDLY.
OH, AND TRY NOT TO POOP ON THE FLOOR. HOB STARTS TO GET PRETTY MAD AFTER THE FIFTH OR SIXTH TIME THAT HAPPENS.
THEY'RE GOING TO CREATE MORE, AREN'T THEY?
WHAT?
THEY'RE GOING TO CREATE MORE MUTANTS. TO REPLACE US.
AND THEY'LL GO THROUGH WHAT I—WHAT WE WENT THROUGH. ALL OVER AGAIN.
YES, SEYMOUR. I'M AFRAID THAT'S A LOGICAL ASSUMPTION.
SO WHY ARE WE SITTING AROUND HERE? WE NEED TO DESTROY THAT LAB.
AGREED.
BUT IT AIN'T LIKE WE CAN JUST WALTZ INTO THE PLACE.
WELL, ONE OF US COULD. ONE OF THEIR OLD LAB RATS.
THEY'D BE SO THRILLED TO HAVE US BACK, WE COULD WALK RIGHT IN THE FRONT DOOR.
WE JUST COULDN'T WALK BACK OUT AGAIN.

I'D LIKE TO OFFER WHAT MAY BE AN UNPOPULAR OPINION.
NOTHING NEW, THERE.
WE SHOULD *IGNORE* THE LAB. IF WE DESTROY IT, THEY'LL SIMPLY START THEIR WORK AGAIN IN A DIFFERENT FACILITY.
IF WE WANT TO CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE, WE HAVE TO GO HIGHER. WE HAVE TO GO AFTER NULL *HERSELF*.
I GET YOUR POINT. BUT THAT LADY AIN'T GOT A LOT OF WEAKNESSES, AT LEAST THAT I CAN SEE.
OF COURSE SHE DOES.
WHY WAS NULL AT THE TRAIN YARD? THE PLAN WOULD HAVE GONE JUST FINE WITHOUT HER.
BUT THE CEO OF A MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATION TOOK THE TIME TO SHOW UP. *PERSONALLY*.
SO, SHE DON'T TRUST HER PEOPLE TO GET THE JOB DONE? THAT AIN'T EXACTLY A LOT TO GO ON.
SHE WASN'T THERE TO *MICROMANAGE*, HOB.
SHE WAS THERE BECAUSE FOR NULL, IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO WIN. SHE WANTS TO *WATCH YOU LOSE*.
SHE WANTS TO LOOK YOU IN THE EYE WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN BEAT.
YEAH... YEAH, WE CAN DEFINITELY USE THAT.
ALL RIGHT. SO WHAT'S THE GAME PLAN?
AND DO YOU NEED A *DRIVER*?


LET'S SEE... WHERE SHOULD IT GO, WHERE SHOULD IT GO...
PIGEON PETE? IS THAT YOU?
YEAH, IT'S ME! PETE!
WHAT ARE YOU... WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?
I'M GIVING EVERYONE NIGHT LIGHTS!
SLASH GAVE ME ONE LAST WEEK, AND IT REALLY HELPS. YOU KNOW, WITH NIGHTMARES!
BUT, PETE—YOU'VE NEVER LIVED IN A LABORATORY, HAVE YOU? NEVER BEEN EXPERIMENTED ON?
NOPE! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FREE AS A... WHATEVER.
THEN... THEN WHAT ARE YOUR NIGHTMARES ABOUT?
LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS.
TROLLEY CARS, MOSTLY. WEDDINGS. PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH *RICE*.
OH.
MINE ARE DIFFERENT.

WHAT ABOUT, LIKE, A LASER? COULD YOU HOOK ME UP WITH ONE OF THEM?
ON YOUR *SKATEBOARD?* FOR WHAT PURPOSE? HOW WOULD THAT EVEN WORK?
BEATS ME. I JUST THINK LASERS ARE SICK AS HE....
HEY, IS THAT...
HEY! SOLDIER! ARE YOU GOING AWOL?
SOLDIER!
WHERE THE HECK IS HE *GOING?* I MEAN...
"DUDE'S GOT NOWHERE TO GO, RIGHT?"

HE'S *DYING?* YOU'RE SURE THAT'S WHAT HE SAID? THIS IS, LIKE, SUPER IMPORTANT.
YES, MA'AM. HE SAID THAT HIS SUIT IS DAMAGED, AND IT'S *KILLING* HIM.
WOW, IT'S TRUE. YOU TOTALLY CAME BACK.
YES. I HAD TO COME HOME. AND FINISH MY WORK.
OUR WORK, MUTAGEN MAN.
MUTAGEN MAN? THIS IS—THIS IS THE HYBRID EXPERIMENT YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT? YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE HE WAS PRACTICALLY *BRAIN-DEAD.*
YES! I KNOW! I LIED TO YOU A LOT! DO WE HAVE TO MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT, LIKE, *EVERY* TIME YOU DISCOVER A NEW LIE?
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG, MUTAGEN MAN. I JUST NEED TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE YOUR—
FLANG!
GAAAH!
I DIDN'T... I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THIS WOULD *HURT.* LIKE BEING FRIED ALIVE.

BUT DON'T WORRY. NO ONE KNOWS YOJR SJIT BETTER THAN ME. I JLST NEED TO EXAM NE-
NO! THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
MUTAGEN MAN, WHAT... WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT I HAD TO DO.
AND YOU'RE WRONG. NO ONE KNOWS TH S SUIT BETTER THAN ME. SO I F XED UP MY W RING. MADE A FEW CHANGES. AND NOW I'M OVERHEAT NG.
N A FEW MORE MINJTES, I'M GO NG TO EXPLODE.

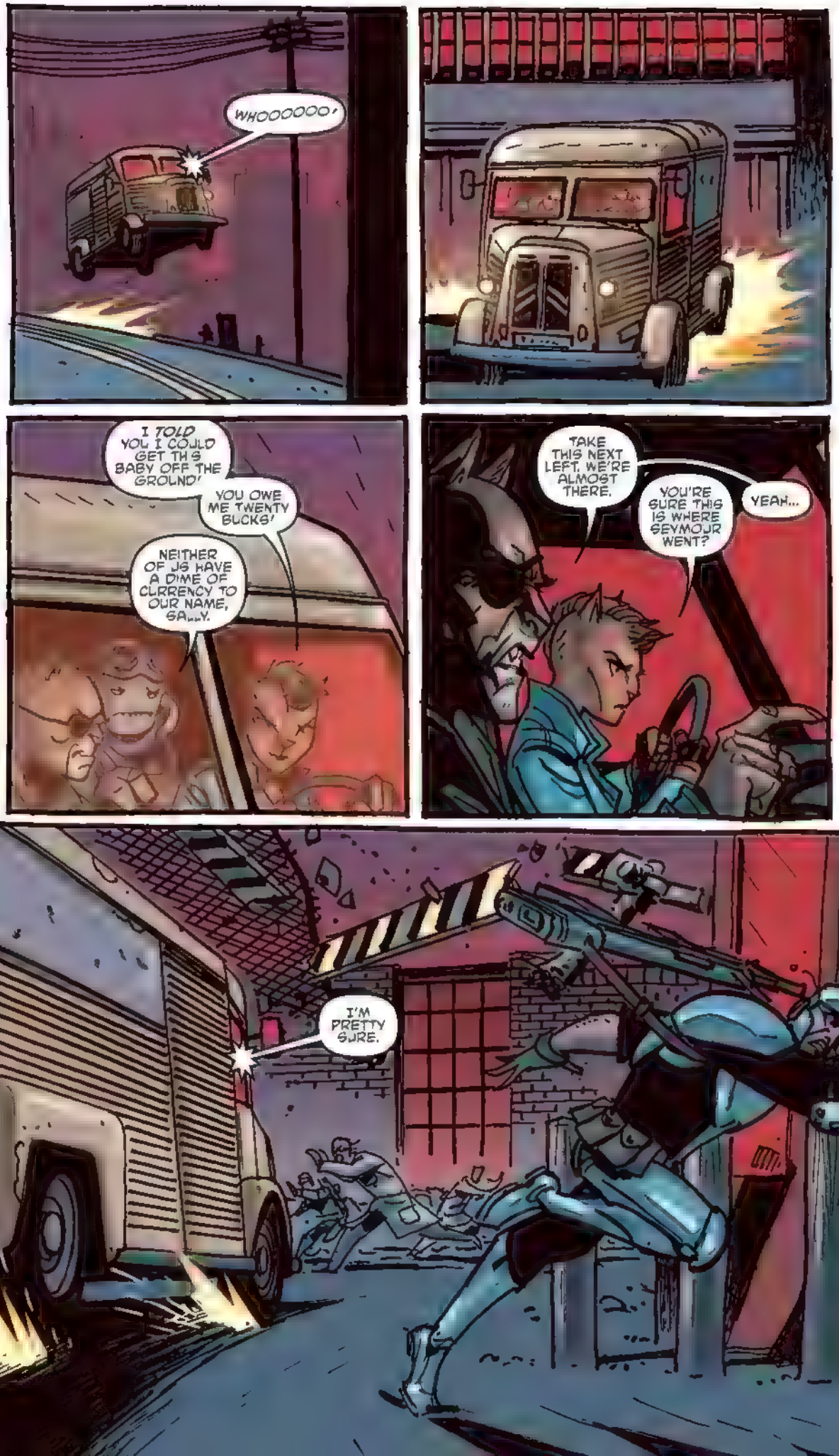
AND THEN NONE OF YOU W LL EVER HJRT ANOTHER MJTANT AGAIN.

BEN BATES

MUTANIMALS #4

ARTIST KIRK

COLOR DICK ELLIOTT


WHOOOOOO!
I TOLD YOU I COULD GET THIS BABY OFF THE GROUND!
YOU OWE ME TWENTY BUCKS!
NEITHER OF US HAVE A DIME OF CURRENCY TO OUR NAME, SA...Y.
TAKE THIS NEXT LEFT. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
YOU'RE SURE THIS IS WHERE SEYMOUR WENT?
YEAH...
I'M PRETTY SURE.

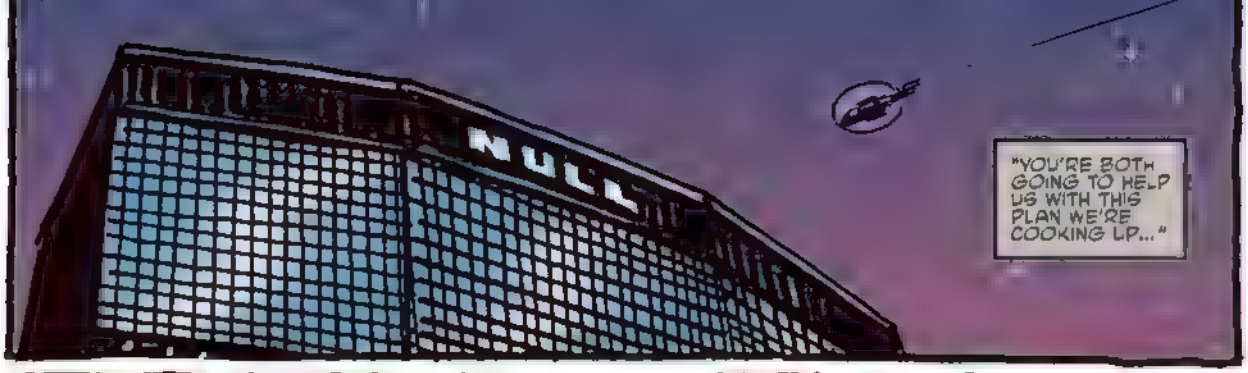
LISTEN—I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. BUT THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THIS LAB.
YOU DON'T KNOW—
YOU DON'T KNOW! I KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS PLACE THAN YOU EVER WILL.
I KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO WORK HERE. I KNOW WHAT THEY'VE DONE.
AND I EVEN KNOW WHAT KIND OF CHEMICAL SPILL WILL TRIGGER A LOCKDOWN.
NO! WE'LL ALL BE TRAPPED!
DANTEN CHEMICALS

NO!
THIS IS TOTALLY BOGUS!
HOB!
HEY, I'M JUST HERE TO GET MY MAN BACK, BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING STUPID.
PUT DOWN THE GUN! HE'S OUR BEST CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
WHICH MEANS WE'RE REALLY SCREWED.
HOB YOU NEED TO LEAVE. PLEASE. RIGHT NOW.
NO WAY.
WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE, SEYMOUR? YOU GOT A BOMB SOMEWHERE ON YOUR SUIT?
HOB—
HE IS THE BOMB.

IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, HOB.
ANY SACRIFICE, TO MAKE SURE NO MUTANT—
NO! I DIDN'T MEAN...
SEYMOUR, THESE PEOPLE TRIED THEIR DAMNEDEST TO TURN YOU INTO A MONSTER. AND IF YOU DO THIS? THEY SUCCEEDED.
DO NOT LET THESE BASTARDS DEFINE YOU. YOU GET TO DECIDE WHO YOU WANT TO BE.
THAT'S WHAT SLASH WAS TRYING TO TELL ME.
AND HE WAS RIGHT.
SO, WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE, SEYMOUR?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I WANT TO... I WANT TO...

SEYMOUR! SEYMOUR, ARE YOU–
HE'S STILL ALIVE. THAT WASN'T THE B.G ONE!
BUT WE NEED TO DISARM HIM OR–
BOOOM
WHAT THE HE...?
SIR, WE HAVE BREACHED THE COMPOUND'S DEFENSES!
THE LOCKDOWN IS RUPTURED! EVERYBODY RUN!
NOT YOU, DR. AMANTE.
MUTANIMALS. YOU NEED TO RUN, TOO. GET OUT OF HERE, AND–
THAT'S NOT HAPPENING, BRO.
NO... I DON'T THINK SO.
I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT. IT'S YOUR TECH, JILLIAN. WHAT DO WE DO?
RIGHT. NO TIME.
I–I DON'T KNOW. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO...
I'M SO SORRY IF THIS DOESN'T WORK.
KRAK! KRA RA

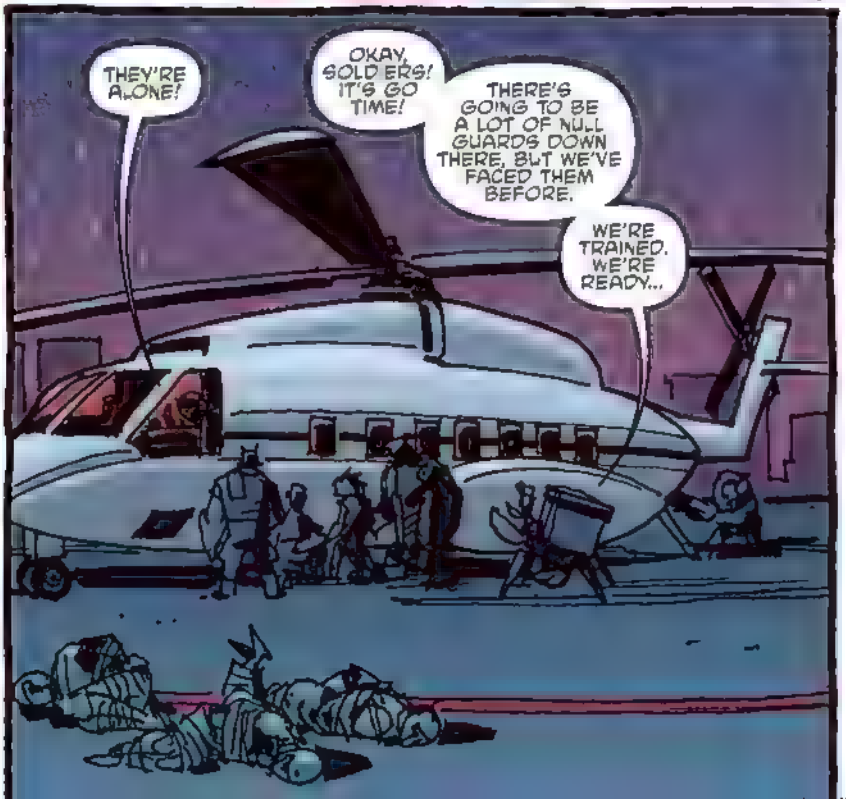
SPUTTER...
CAN YOU TALK?
I... I CAN.
OKAY LISTEN, MUTAGEN MAN.
WAIT. IS... IS MUTAGEN MAN REALLY WHAT YOU LIKE TO BE CALLED?
NO. I HAVE A REAL NAME, NOW. SEYMOUR GUTZ.
HUH. I'M GUESSING MONDO GECKO GAVE YOU THAT NAME.
LISTEN, SEYMOUR, YOUR SUIT NEEDS A LOT OF WORK. IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME.
BUT YOU'LL BE OKAY.
HOB...
NO. DON'T GET SAPPY, OR TRY TO FEED ME SOME LINE ABOUT HOW WE'RE A FAMILY. I AIN'T BUYING IT.
WE'RE NOT FAMILY, HOB BUT YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS MUTAGEN.
I'LL BE THAT PERSON, UNTIL SOMETHING BETTER COMES ALONG.
FINE. WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. BUT YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US.
INSTEAD, I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND BACK THERE.

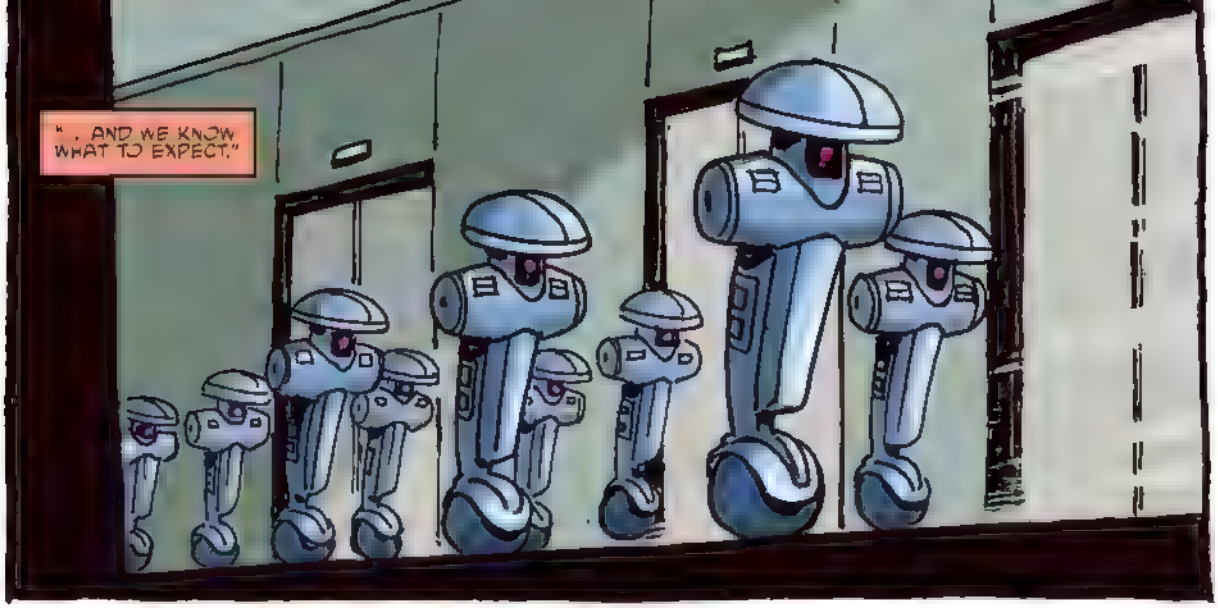

NULL
"YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO HELP US WITH THIS PLAN WE'RE COOKING UP..."

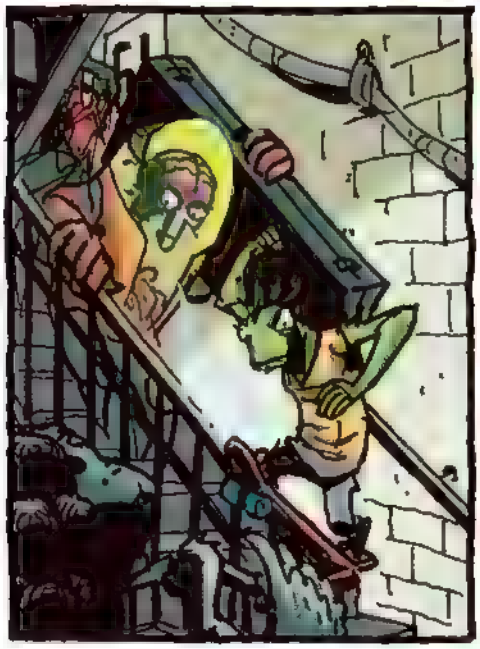
OLD ROB. I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO SEE ME. BECAUSE IF I CAN TELL YOU A LITTLE SECRET?
YOU GUYS ARE *REALLY* STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
THAT'S THE IDEA.

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN. RIGHT? ABSOLUTELY, OBJECTIVELY CAN'T WIN.
WE'RE A MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION— *MULTI-DIMENSIONAL*, BETWEEN YOU AND I—AND YOU'RE A SCRAPPY BAND OF MUTANT TERRORISTS.
THE TRUTH IS, ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS HAVE MADE JUST THE TINIEST, MOST *IMPERCEPTIBLE* LITTLE DENT.
JUST A DENT, HUH?

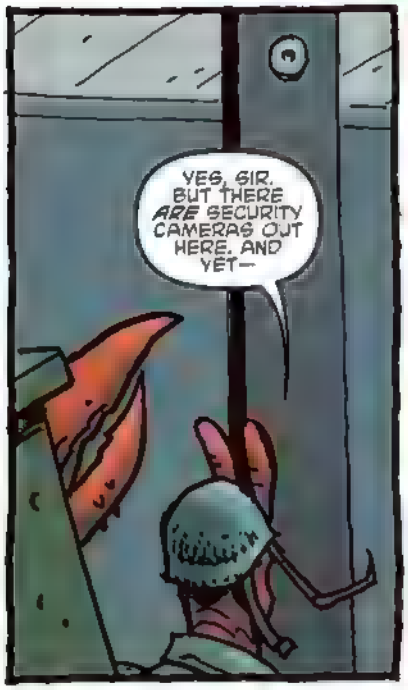
IS THAT WHY I WAS ABLE TO WALK IN THE FRONT DOOR AND GET A MEETING? JUST YOU AND ME, ALONE IN YOUR OFFICE?


THEY'RE ALONE!
OKAY, SOLDIERS! IT'S GO TIME!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF NULL GUARDS DOWN THERE, BUT WE'VE FACED THEM BEFORE.
WE'RE TRAINED. WE'RE READY...


". . AND WE KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT."



SIR... WE HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE PERSON SINCE WE LEFT THE ROOFTOP.
YOU KNOW WHAT LINDSEY SAID. NO CAMERAS IN THE STARWELLS. FAR LESS SECURITY GOING *DOWN* THAN COMING *UP*.

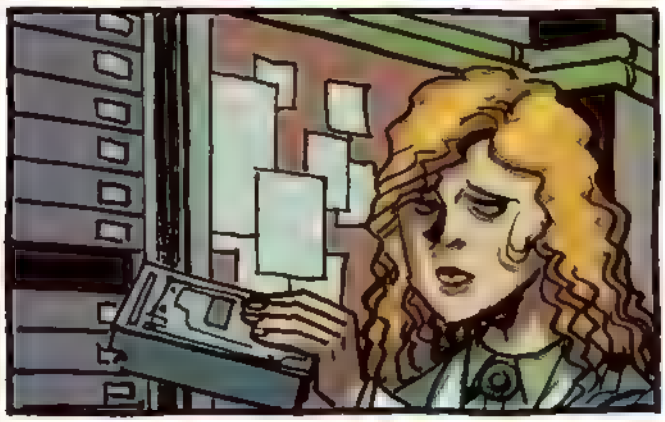

YES, SIR. BUT THERE *ARE* SECURITY CAMERAS OUT HERE. AND YET—

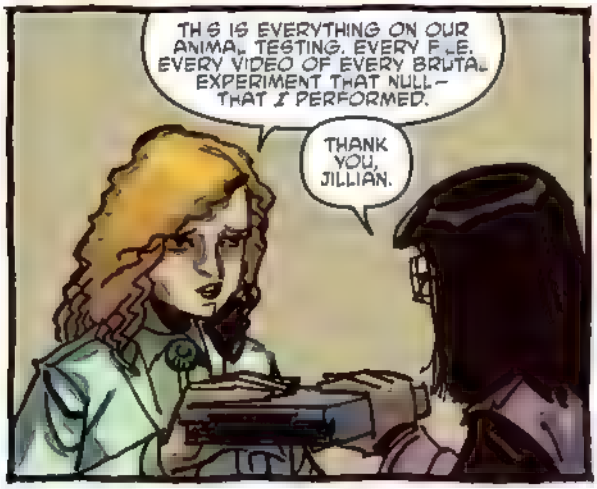
SMASH

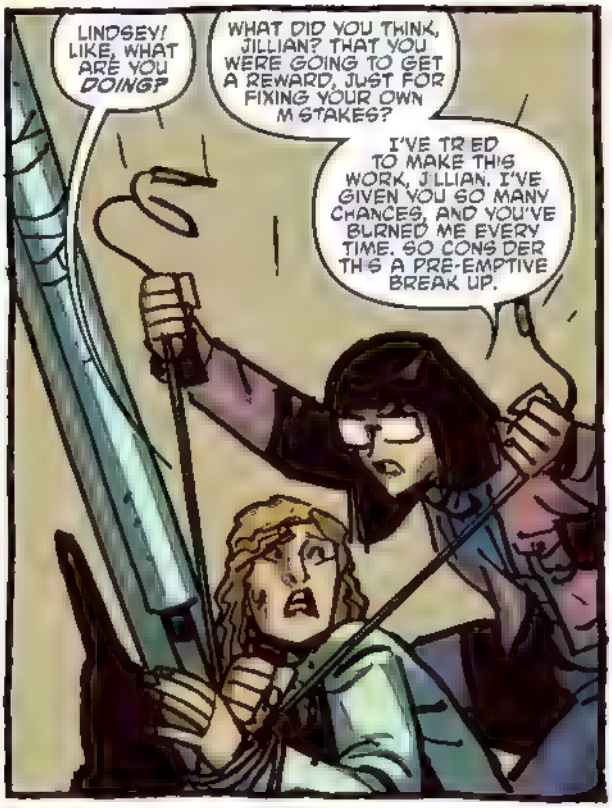
YES. ALL THE GUARDS—THE *OTHER* GUARDS—RAN ONCE THE DOORS WERE OPEN. I GUESS THEY WEREN'T BEING PAID ENOUGH TO GET BLOWN UP?
NO, I— NO, I'M NOT QUESTIONING... YES. I'LL BE HERE.

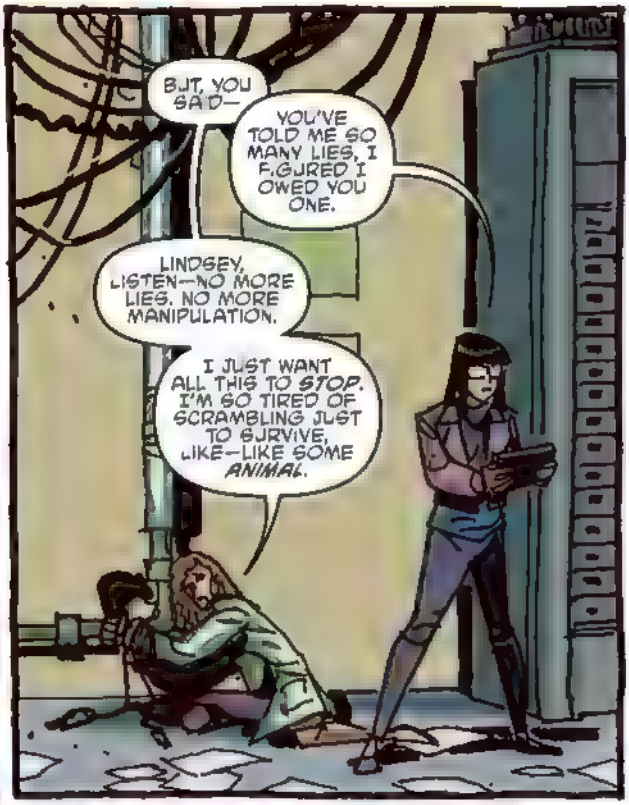
WE HAVE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE SECOND WAVE OF GUARDS ARRIVE.
I'VE WIPED THE DNA CODES. DELETED THE FORMULAS. SET THE RESEARCH BACK YEARS. BUT THIS NEXT THING—I REALLY DON'T THINK WE SHOULD—

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, JILLIAN. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO STOP RUNNING, AND STAY TOGETHER. WE CAN CONTINUE OUR WORK, WITH THE *MUTANIMALS*. HOB SAID HE WOULD TAKE BOTH OF US IN.
BUT FIRST, WE HAVE TO DO THIS. THOSE ARE THE TERMS. AND THEY'RE THE BEST YOU'RE GONNA GET.



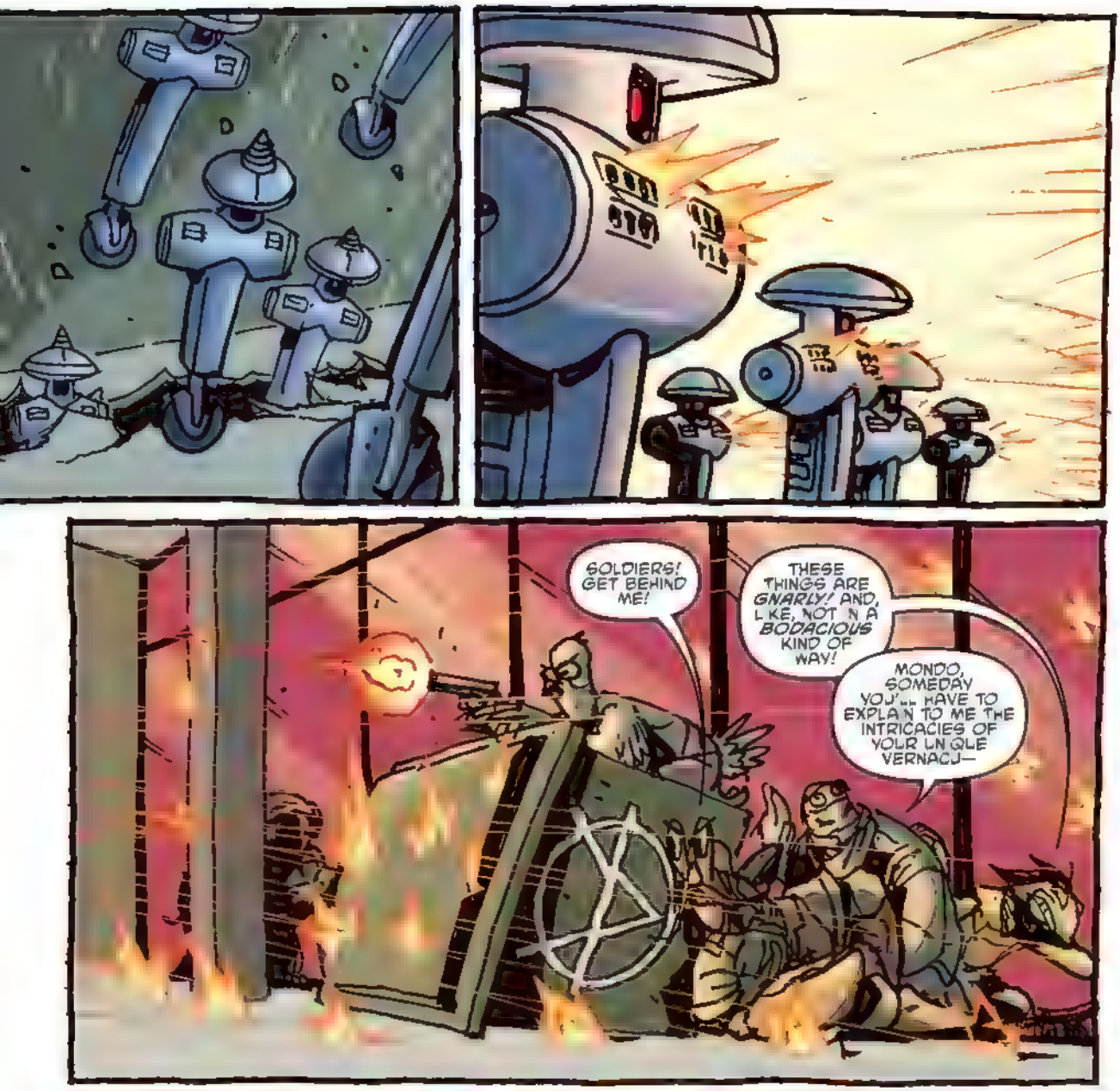

THIS IS EVERYTHING ON OUR ANIMAL TESTING. EVERY FILE. EVERY VIDEO OF EVERY BRUTAL EXPERIMENT THAT NULL— THAT *I* PERFORMED.
THANK YOU, JILLIAN.

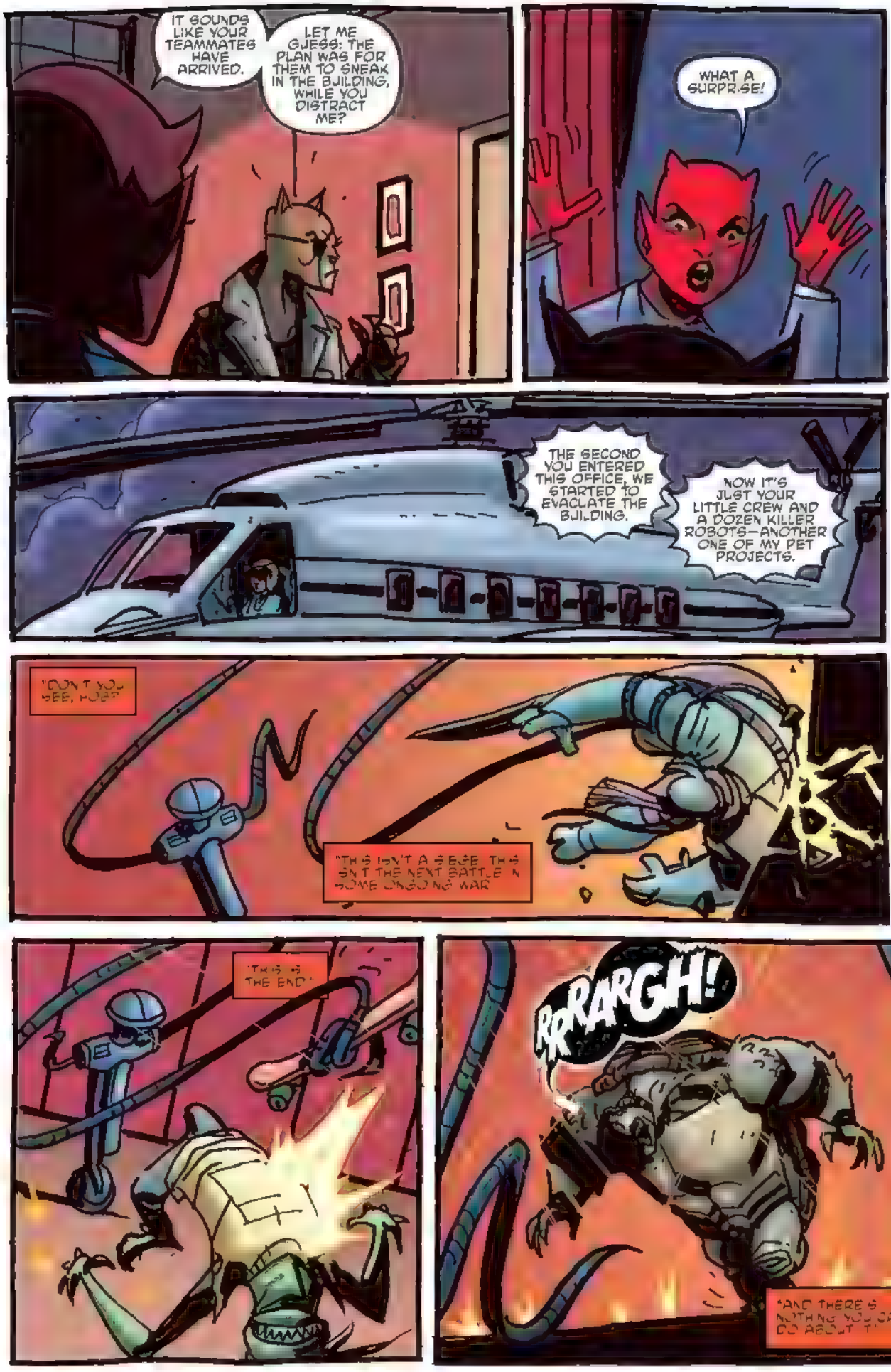

LINDSEY! LIKE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DID YOU THINK, JILLIAN? THAT YOU WERE GOING TO GET A REWARD, JUST FOR FIXING YOUR OWN MISTAKES?
I'VE TRIED TO MAKE THIS WORK, JILLIAN. I'VE GIVEN YOU SO MANY CHANCES, AND YOU'VE BURNED ME EVERY TIME. SO CONSIDER THIS A PRE-EMPTIVE BREAK UP.


BUT, YOU SAID—
YOU'VE TOLD ME SO MANY LIES, I FIGURED I OWED YOU ONE.
LINDSEY, LISTEN—NO MORE LIES. NO MORE MANIPULATION.
I JUST WANT ALL THIS TO STOP. I'M SO TIRED OF SCRAMBLING JUST TO SURVIVE, LIKE—LIKE SOME ANIMAL.

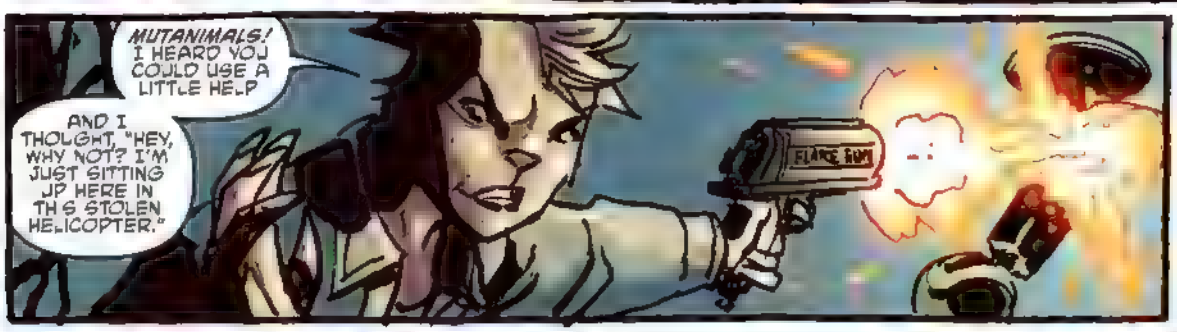
GOODBYE, JILLIAN.

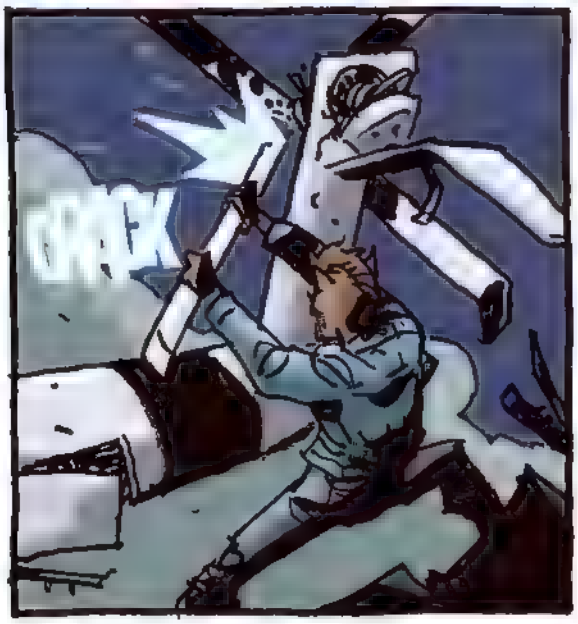
LINDSEY!


SOLDIERS! GET BEHIND ME!
THESE THINGS ARE *GNARLY!* AND, LIKE, NOT IN A *BODACIOUS* KIND OF WAY!
MONDO, SOMEDAY YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME THE INTRICACIES OF YOUR UNIQUE VERNACU—
GHAA!
PETE!


IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR TEAMMATES HAVE ARRIVED.
LET ME GUESS: THE PLAN WAS FOR THEM TO SNEAK IN THE BUILDING, WHILE YOU DISTRACT ME?
WHAT A SURPR.SE!
THE SECOND YOU ENTERED THIS OFFICE, WE STARTED TO EVACUATE THE BUILDING.
NOW IT'S JUST YOUR LITTLE CREW AND A DOZEN KILLER ROBOTS—ANOTHER ONE OF MY PET PROJECTS.
"DON'T YOU SEE, ROB?
"THIS ISN'T A SIEGE. THIS ISN'T THE NEXT BATTLE IN SOME ONGOING WAR
"THIS IS THE END."
RRRARGH!
"AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT."

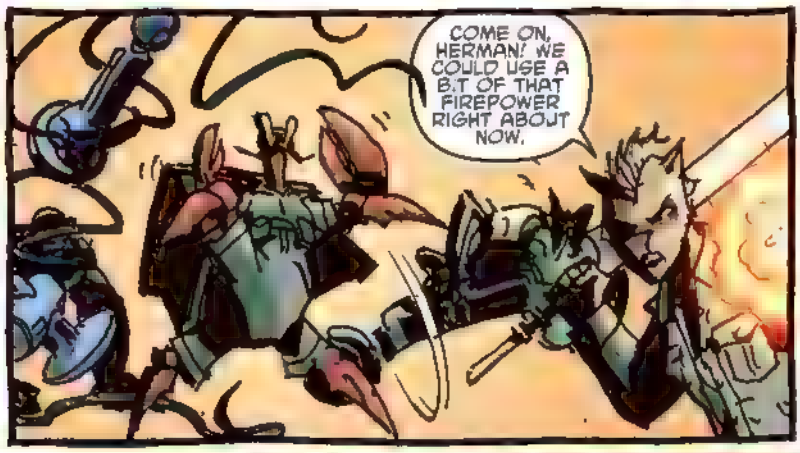
SEYMOUR!
HELP ME!
SOLDIERS... BROTHERS...
...IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE.


MUTANIMALS! I HEARD YOJ COULD USE A LITTLE HELP
AND I THOLGHT, "HEY, WHY NOT? I'M JUST SITTING JP HERE IN TH S STOLEN HELICOPTER."
FLARE GUN


CRACK

NOW LET'S KICK SOME ROBOT ASS!

ENOUGH!

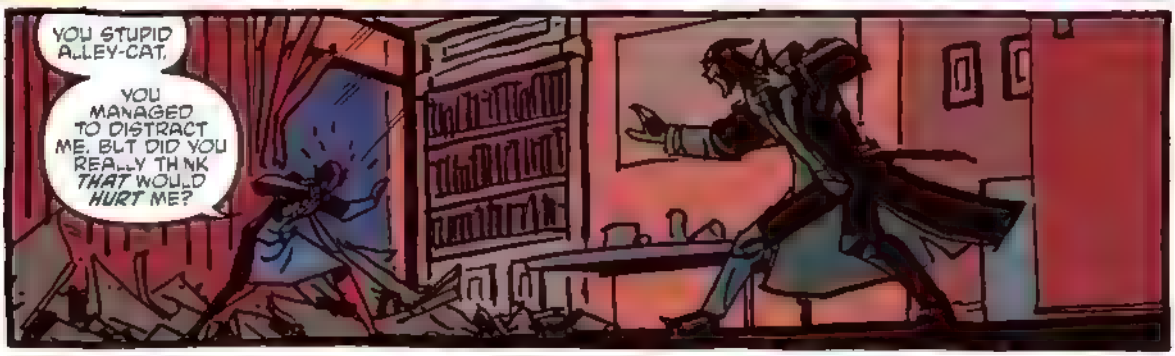

COME ON, HERMAN! WE COULD USE A BIT OF THAT FIREPOWER RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

YEAH, DUDE!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

SLASH... ARE YOU...
IT'S... UNDER... CONTROL.

"NOW LET'S FINISH THE PLAN."
YOU KNOW, I ACTUALLY *LIKE* YOU, HOB. YOU'RE *INTERESTING*. SMART, BUT NOT EDUCATED. VIOLENT, BUT NOT TRAINED IN THE USE OF VIOLENCE. YOU HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL.
AND THAT'S MADE THIS PRETTY FUN A PLEASANT DISTRACTION
BUT WE'RE *DONE*, NOW.
YOU CAN'T WIN. AND YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T KILL ME. HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE *HERE*.
BECAUSE... I... CAN...
...*HURT* YOU.

AAAGH!


YOU STUPID ALLEY-CAT.
YOU MANAGED TO DISTRACT ME. BUT DID YOU REALLY THINK *THAT* WOULD *HURT* ME?

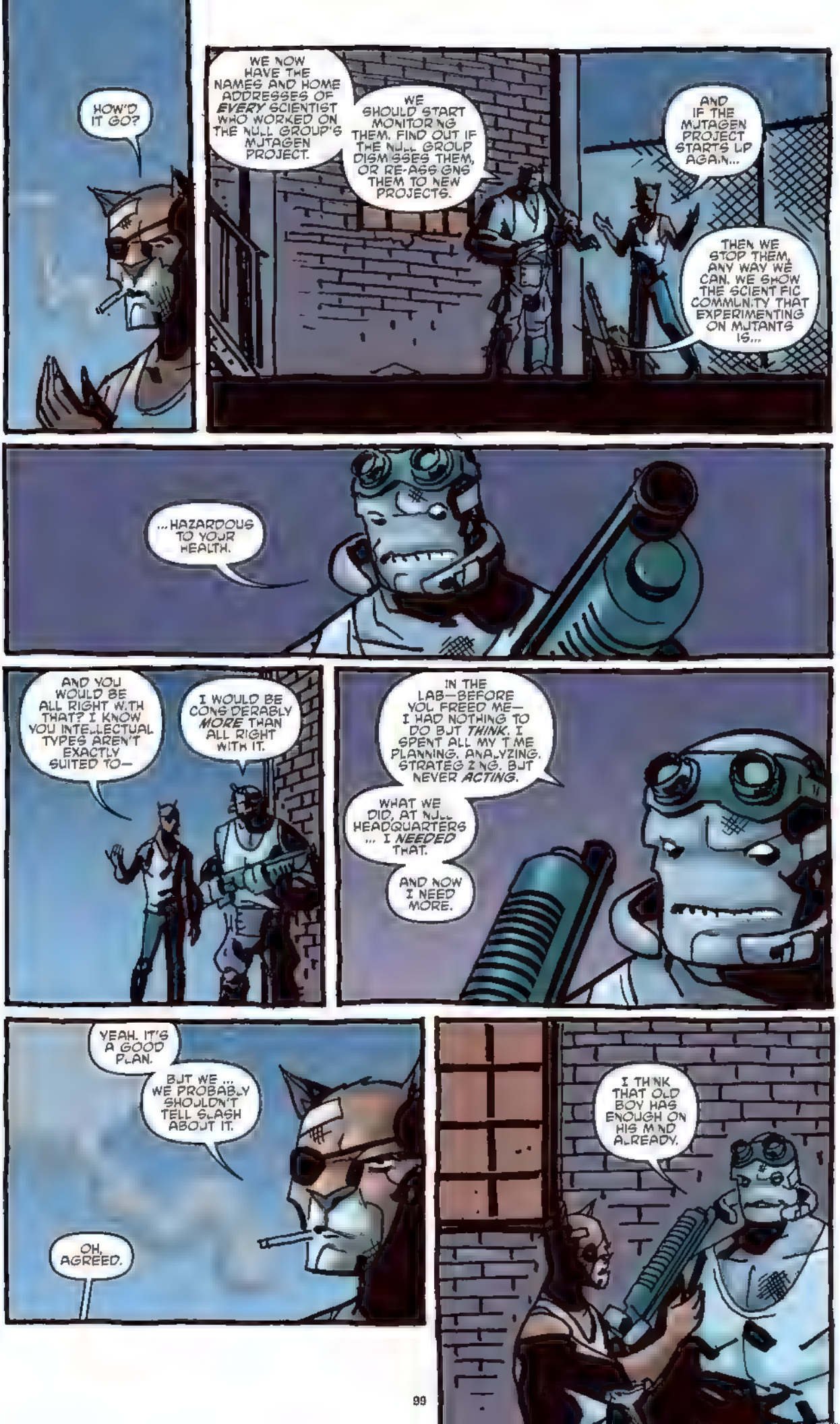
NO...

BUT *THIS* WI...

FWOOM
SMASH

YOU... YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T WIN.
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE A GIANT, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION. AND WE'RE JUST A SCRAPPY BAND OF MUTANTS. WE CAN'T WIN.
BUT BOY, CAN WE STIR UP TROUBLE. WAY MORE TROUBLE THAN WE'RE WORTH.
WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE PROFITS YOU EARN ARE NOWHERE NEAR WORTH THE COST.
"WE'LL SET YOUR RESEARCH BACK BY YEARS
"WE'LL EXPOSE ALL YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS WE'LL MAKE YOUR STOCK PRICES PLUMMET."
NEWS
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY MANAGE TO CLAW YOUR WAY BACK TO WHERE YOU WERE?
WE'LL DO IT AGAIN.
SO PUT YOUR EFFORTS ELSEWHERE. CURE CANCER. SET UP A MINING COLONY ON VENUS. DEVELOP A NEW SPORTS DRINK.
OR A BLUEBERRY COLA!
OR A BLUEBERRY COLA.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. JUST LEAVE OUR KIND ALONE. BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T?
I WILL FIND YOU. I WILL HURT YOU. AND I SWEAR, I WILL KILL YOU.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO PUT YOU ON A ROCKET AND SHOOT YOU STRAIGHT INTO THE SUN.

LATER...
HEY, DON'T GO ANYWHERE, DOC! YOU'RE NEXT UP FOR SOME FIRST AID.
I WAS SITTING ON A PARK BENCH SIX BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE FIGHT, SALLY.
OH... THAT. THOSE ARE HEAT BLISTERS. SEYMOUR'S GUT WAS... THE OVERHEATING WAS QUITE SIGNIFICANT.
YEAH? SO WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HANDS?
AND BRAWLING WITH MY EX-GIRLFRIEND CERTAINLY DIDN'T HELP THE MATTER.
HUH. BUT YOU DIDN'T STOP. DIDN'T RUN. DIDN'T EVEN TELL US ABOUT IT.
I DIDN'T SEE THE POINT.
FIRST AID
I GET THAT. YOU DON'T LIKE TO ADMIT YOU NEED HELP. YOU FEEL LIKE IT MAKES YOU VULNERABLE. I'M THE SAME WAY.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S— YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMIC THAT—
DOC PETE TOLD ME WHY YOU LEFT THE TEAM.
THAT YOU DIDN'T FEEL LIKE ANYONE TRUSTED YOU.
BUT IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO TRUST YOU, YOU'VE GOTTA TRUST *THEM*.
THAT'S THE POINT.

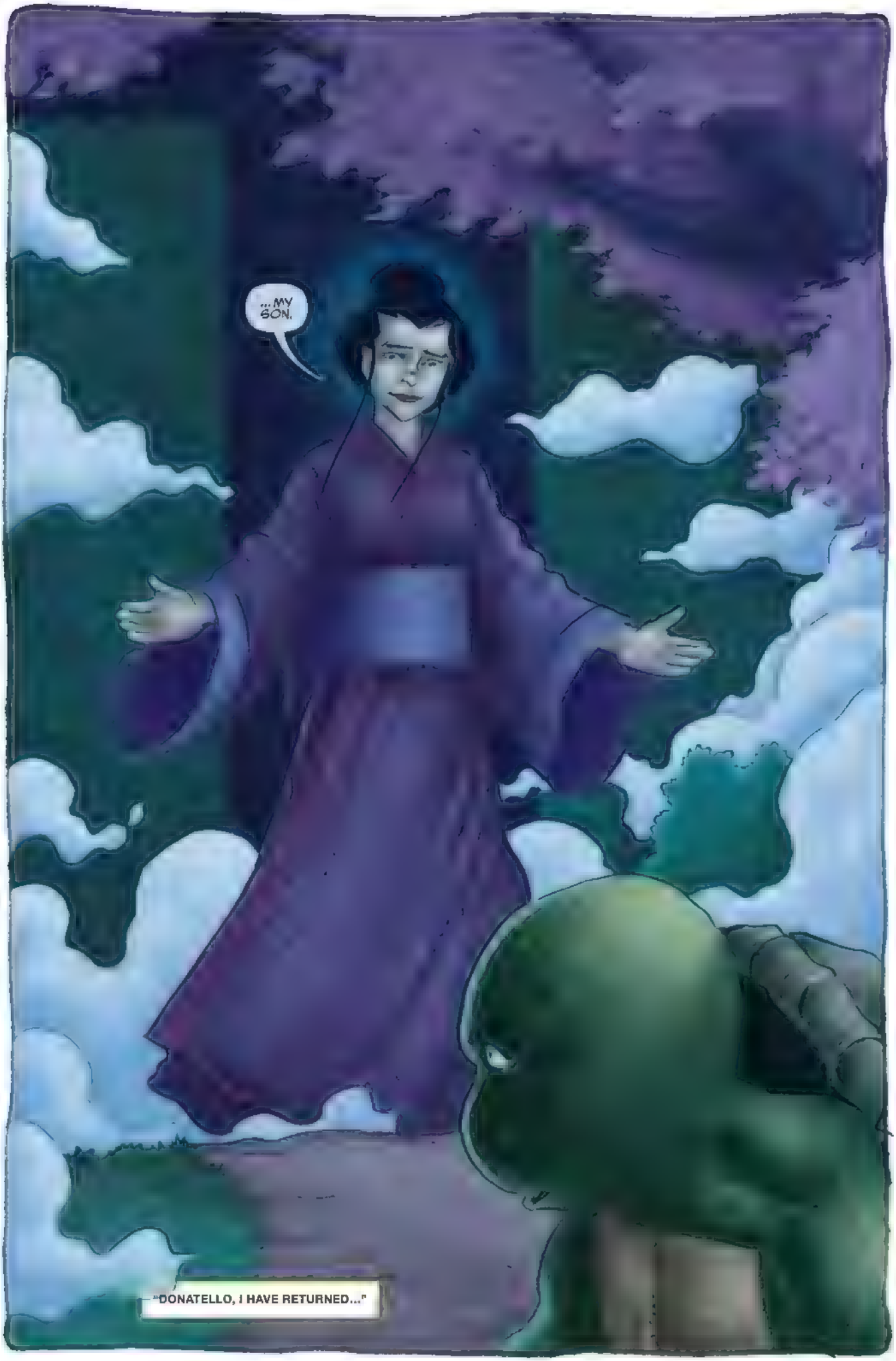

HOW'D IT GO?
WE NOW HAVE THE NAMES AND HOME ADDRESSES OF *EVERY* SCIENTIST WHO WORKED ON THE NULL GROUP'S MUTAGEN PROJECT.
WE SHOULD START MONITORING THEM. FIND OUT IF THE NULL GROUP DISMISSES THEM, OR RE-ASSIGNS THEM TO NEW PROJECTS.
AND IF THE MUTAGEN PROJECT STARTS UP AGAIN...
THEN WE STOP THEM, ANY WAY WE CAN. WE SHOW THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY THAT EXPERIMENTING ON MUTANTS IS...
...HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.
AND YOU WOULD BE ALL RIGHT WITH THAT? I KNOW YOU INTELLECTUAL TYPES AREN'T EXACTLY SUITED TO—
I WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY *MORE* THAN ALL RIGHT WITH IT.
IN THE LAB—BEFORE YOU FREED ME—I HAD NOTHING TO DO BUT *THINK*. I SPENT ALL MY TIME PLANNING, ANALYZING, STRATEGIZING. BUT NEVER *ACTING*.
WHAT WE DID, AT NULL HEADQUARTERS ... I *NEEDED* THAT.
AND NOW I NEED MORE.
YEAH. IT'S A GOOD PLAN.
BUT WE ... WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T TELL SLASH ABOUT IT.
OH, AGREED.
I THINK THAT OLD BOY HAS ENOUGH ON HIS MIND ALREADY.

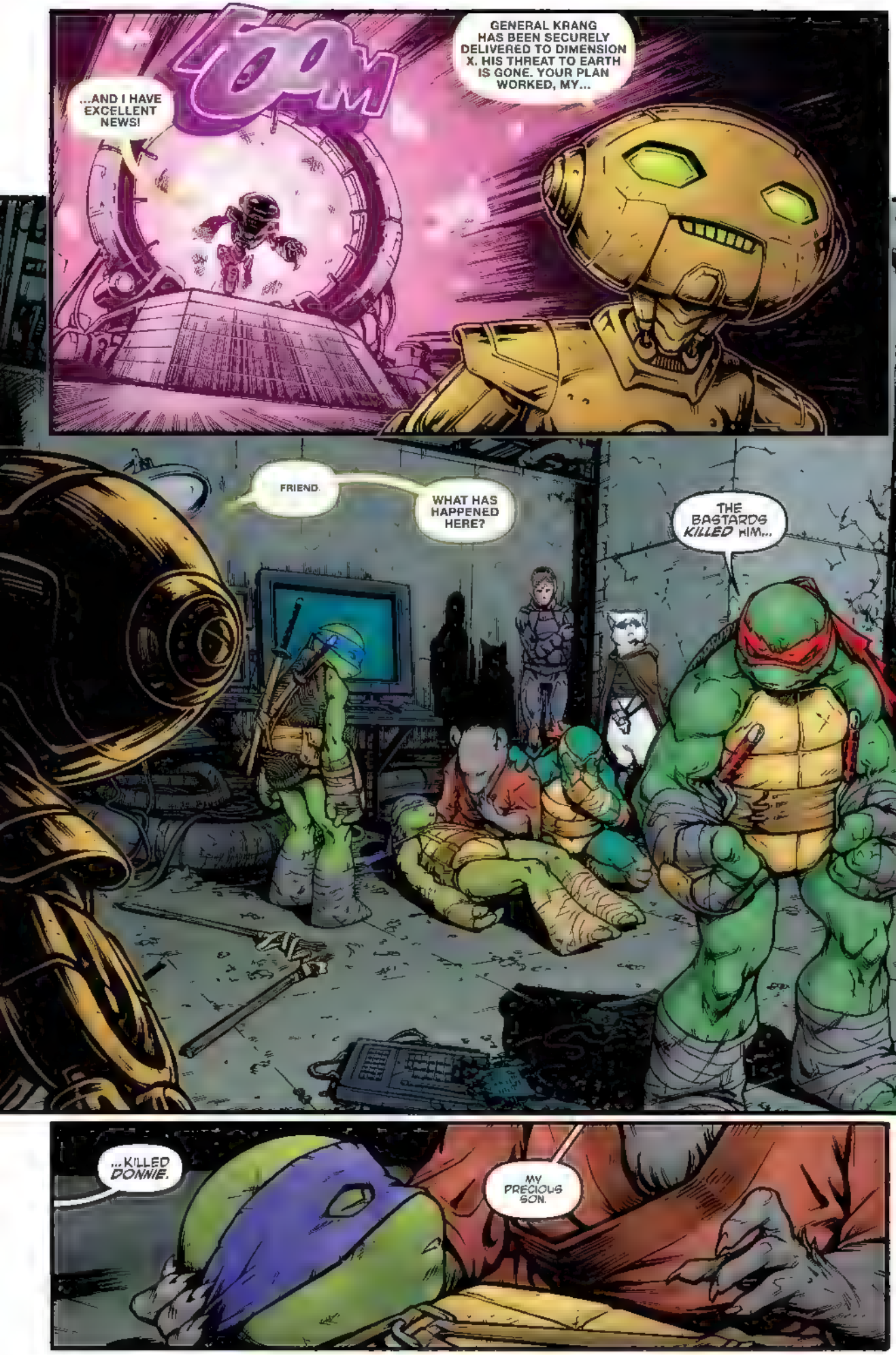
OH, THERE YOU ARE, SIR.
YOU SHOULD DO THE HONORS.
NAH.
BEING WITH YOU ALL IS HONOR ENOUGH.
WE... I KNOW I'M CERTAINLY HAPPY TO BE HERE. I SUSPECT THAT EVENTUALLY, THIS LITTLE TEAM WILL DO GREAT THINGS FOR MUTANTS EVERYWHERE.
EVENTUALLY? JEEZ, MAN. WHAT DO YOU CALL THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS?
I CALL IT A PRETTY GOOD START.
THE END.

art by REN GATES

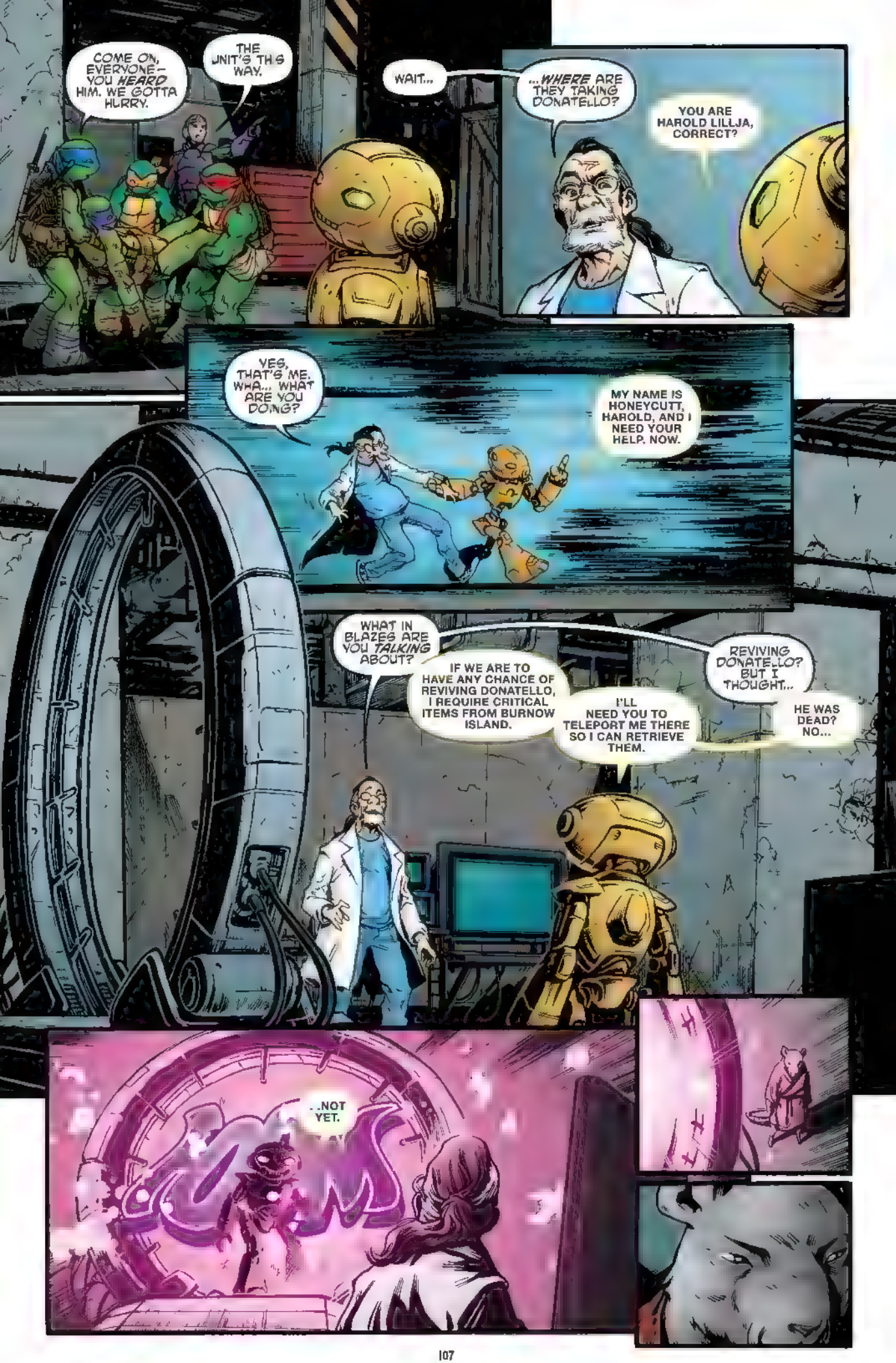
ISSUE #45

WHERE...?
OH.
PLEASE, STAY AWHILE AND VISIT WITH ME...


...MY SON.
"DONATELLO, I HAVE RETURNED..."


...AND I HAVE EXCELLENT NEWS!
GENERAL KRANG HAS BEEN SECURELY DELIVERED TO DIMENSION X. HIS THREAT TO EARTH IS GONE. YOUR PLAN WORKED, MY...
FRIEND.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
THE BASTARDS KILLED HIM...
...KILLED DONNIE.
MY PRECIOUS SON.

BY THE CREATOR..
HE'S NOT DEAD!
STILL... ALIVE?
BARELY MY SENSORS ARE PICKING UP A PULSE, BUT IT'S WEAK AND RAPIDLY FADING.
DOES THE LABORATORY HAVE A COOLING UNIT?
MM... YEAH... A BIG WALK-IN ONE IN THE BACK.
IT'S WHERE HAROLD KEEPS SOME OF THE BIGGER SERVERS.
GOOD LEONARDO, GATHER YOUR BROTHERS AND VERY CAREFULLY MOVE DONATELLO THERE.
WHAT... WHAT FOR?
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS— IF I'M RIGHT, WE HAVE LITTLE TIME. WE ALL NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY.
HOLD ON—WE'RE GONNA FREEZE DONNIE?
WHAT'S GOIN' ON, FLGITOID?
WHAT'S GOING ON IS WE NEED TO SLOW DOWN DONATELLO'S CELL METABOLISM.
BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN IF WE DON'T ACT IMMEDIATELY!


COME ON, EVERYONE— YOU HEARD HIM. WE GOTTA HURRY.
THE UNIT'S THIS WAY.
WAIT...
...WHERE ARE THEY TAKING DONATELLO?
YOU ARE HAROLD LILLJA, CORRECT?
YES, THAT'S ME. WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MY NAME IS HONEYCUTT, HAROLD, AND I NEED YOUR HELP. NOW.
WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF REVIVING DONATELLO, I REQUIRE CRITICAL ITEMS FROM BURNOW ISLAND.
I'LL NEED YOU TO TELEPORT ME THERE SO I CAN RETRIEVE THEM.
REVIVING DONATELLO? BUT I THOUGHT...
HE WAS DEAD? NO...
...NOT YET.

INSANITY. SHEER INSANITY.
STILL ALIVE
"DONATELLO, MY SON..."

... IT'S YOUR FATHER.
I KNOW YOU STILL LIVE.
I'VE COME TO FIND YOU.
TO BRING YOU HOME.
"I'M TELLIN' YA, HE AIN'T HERE."

WE AIN'T SEEIN' HUN NOWHERE.
YEAH—AND WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE.
KEEP SEARCHING! FIND HIM!
I WILL NEED TO INFORM THE MASTER WHETHER HUN'S BEEN DESTROYED OR DESERTED UPON HIS RETURN.
NO, KARAI...
...YOU WON'T.
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHERE IS MASTER SHREDDER?!

IT WAS AN AMBUSH. GENERAL KRANG'S FORCES WERE WAITING FOR US WHEN WE ARRIVED.
WE DID OUR BEST TO FIGHT THEM OFF, BUT KRANG USED SOME KIND OF WEAPON AGAINST US.
WE TRIED TO SAVE THE MASTER BUT THE WEAPON... IT WAS TOO POWERFUL.
AMBUSHED?
YES. THE TURTLE CALLED DONATELLO BETRAYED OUR MASTER AND WE...
...WE FAILED TO PROTECT HIM.
AND WHAT OF GENERAL KRANG?
WE DON'T KNOW. WE RETREATED AS SOON AS WE KNEW WE COULDN'T RESCUE MASTER AND BY THEN KRANG HAD ALREADY LEFT THE BATTLE.
WE FLED AS HE LAY DYING. WE HAVE DISHONORED THE CLAN.
ENOUGH!
I WILL HAVE NO MORE OF YOUR DAMNED WALLOWING.
HEAR ME NOW, ALL OF YOU!
UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE, WE MUST ASSUME MASTER SHREDDER IS DEAD.
I WILL CONFER WITH KITSUNE AS SHE HAS SOME... EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL REGROUP OUR REMAINING FORCES AND DECIDE WHO IS WORTHY TO REMAIN WITH US.
WE HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE BY TRUSTING OUTSIDERS AND THE TIME HAS COME TO CULL OUR RANKS OF TRAITORS AND COWARDS.
MY GRANDFATHER MAY BE GONE, BUT KNOW THIS—
—THE FOOT CLAN IS NOT.

LIQUOR STORE
CONVENIENCE
<FASTER!>
<BUT WE LEFT THE GROCERIES INSIDE.>
<JUST GO! WE DON'T WANT TROUBLE.>
THAT'S RIGHT! RUN!
AND SPREAD THE WORD THE PURPLE DRAGONS ARE BACK!
HELLS YEAH, WE ARE!
THIS 'HOOD BELONGS TO US, SUCKERS!
BAAHH!

WHA—
YO, DIDN'T YOU CHUMPS GET THE MEMO?
THIS AIN'T PURPLE DRAGON TURF NO MORE!
GUHH!
JONES?
FWOMP
WHAP
BLAM
CHOK
WHICH MEANS YOU BOYS ARE TRESPASSIN'!
HUH?
MALO... CHUN... THE HELL'S GOIN' ON OUT HERE?
OH, HEY, LINK.

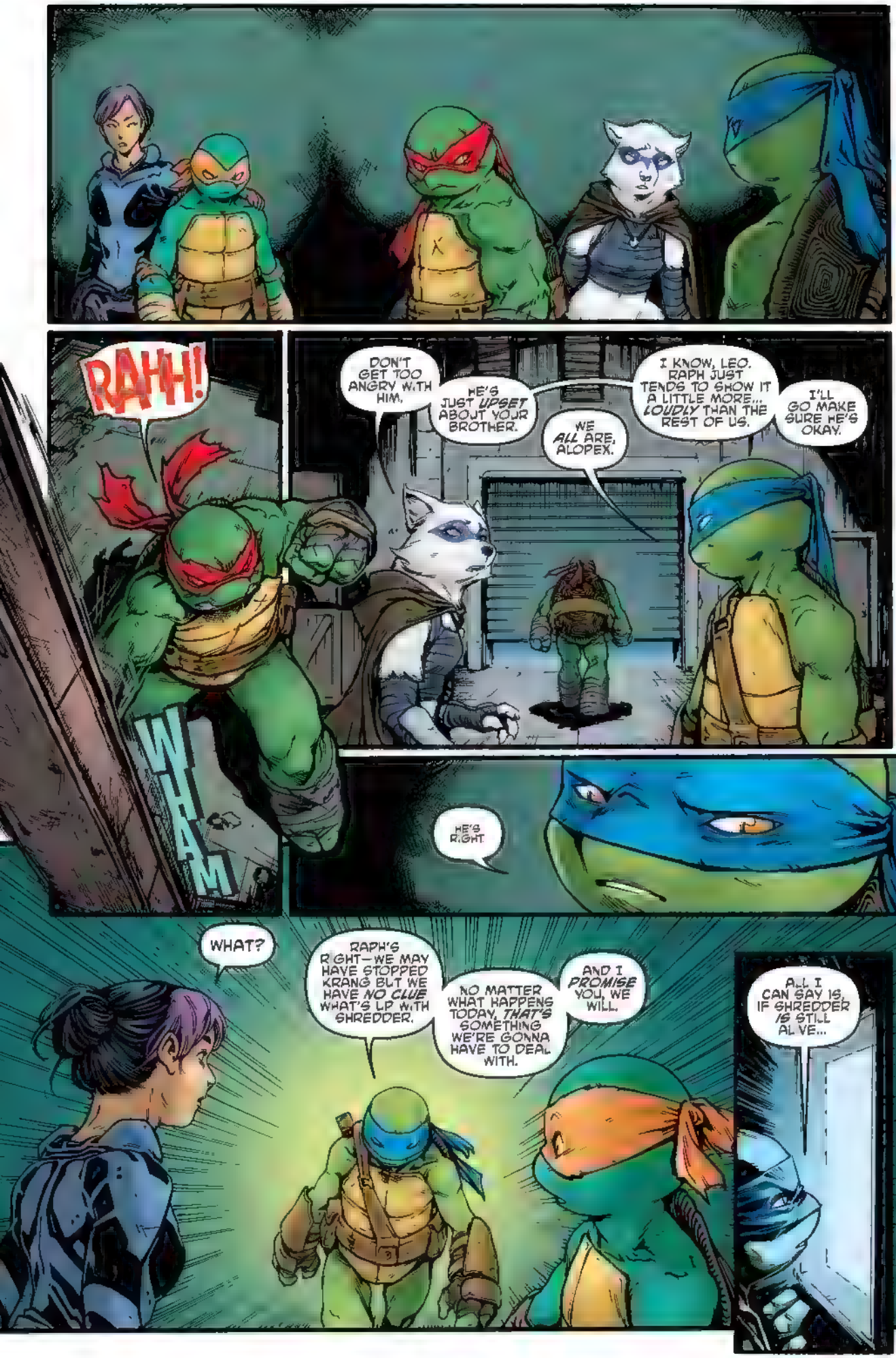
WHAP!
I WAS JUST TELLIN' YOUR BOYS...
RARGG!
CHK
...YOU 'BANGERS AIN'T WELCOME 'ROUND HERE.
KRAK
TIME FOR YOU GOONS TO GET LOST.
OH, WOW...
...YOU BEAT THEM ALL.

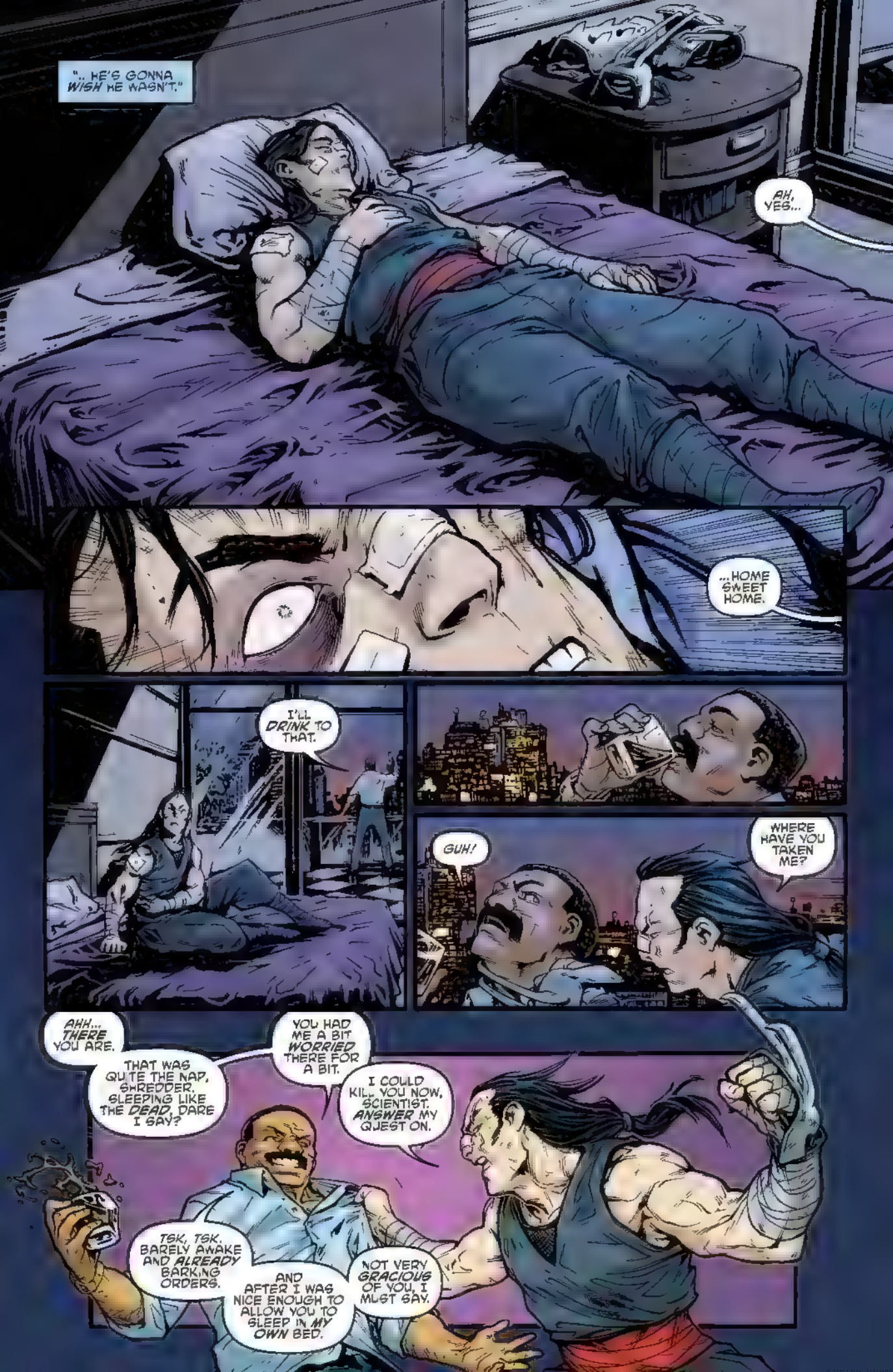
THANKS I'M ARUNE.
CASEY. AND NO BIGG E, DUDE. JUST HELPIN' OUT A NEIGHBOR.
THIS... THIS AIN'T DONE, JONES. WE'LL BE BACK.
GOOD, 'CAUSE I'LL BE HERE TO KNOCK THE REST OF YOUR TEETH OUTTA YOUR MELON.
UM... SHOULD YOU ANTAGONIZE THEM LIKE THAT?
THESE JERKS WON'T STOP UNTIL SOMEONE STANDS UP TO 'EM. THEY TALK BIG BUT I'LL BET THEY THINK TWICE 'FORE MESSIN' WITH YOU AGAIN.
STILL... TAKE THIS. JUST IN CASE I CAN'T GET HERE RIGHT AWAY NEXT TIME.
BUT THIS IS YOURS. I CAN'T—
DON'T SWEAT IT, MAN.
I GOT PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.
SEE YOU 'ROUND, ARUNE. AND DON'T FORGET—THIS IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. SPREAD THE WORD.
OKAY... I WILL.
OH... AND BE CAREFUL. THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE WITH THEM—A REALLY BIG SCARY-LOOKING GUY.
BIG SCARY-LOOKIN' GUY?
OH...
SECOND TIME AROUND
AROUND
...HELL NO.
"HOW DID YOU GET HERE?"

BETTER YET, HOW'D I GET HERE, MOTHER?
LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS FIGHTING BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY IN HAROLD'S LAB, AND THEN...
OH, PRECOCIOUS CHILD—ALWAYS SEEKING *IMPOSSIBLE* ANSWERS.
IMPOSSIBLE? SO... THIS GARDEN *ISN'T* REAL? I'M DREAMING?
DID I SAY THAT, MY SON?
NO. NOT EXACTLY.
AND THAT LIGHT?
BEAUTIFUL, IS IT NOT?
YES. VERY.
I'VE NEVER SEEN *ANYTHING* LIKE IT. I KNOW I SHOULD BE FREAKING OUT RIGHT NOW—I MEAN, THIS JUST DOESN'T SEEM *LOGICAL* AT ALL... BUT...
...BUT THIS ALL FEELS *RIGHT* SOMEHOW.
WHERE EXACTLY *AM* I, MOTHER?
PERHAPS THE MORE *APPROPRIATE* QUESTION WOULD BE...

"...WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME BUYING THIS, HONEYCUTT.
FRANKLY, THE SCIENCE SEEMS FAR-FETCHED. ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS WORKS?
YES, I AM THOUGH, ADMITTEDLY, I DO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT SLAP-DASHING THE COMPONENTS TOGETHER THE WAY WE HAVE, BUT TIME IS MOST DEFINITELY OF THE ESSENCE.
OKAY, LET'S SEE. .
.. WOULD YOU HAND ME THAT BLUE CABLE, PLEASE?
HERE. AND IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO?
I FEEL BLASTED USELESS RIGHT NOW.
YOU UNDERESTIMATE YOUR VALUE, HAROLD. NOW AND—IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL TODAY—LATER.
REVITALIZATION IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THIS PROCESS.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEYCUTT.
PLEASE BE RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL NEED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE TABLE A BIT...
. .IT'S TIME.
CLICK
"DO YOU THINK THEY'RE TOO LATE?"

IT'S BEEN LIKE, WHAT? TWO HOURS NOW?
PLEASE, GOD, PLEASE...
WE'RE GONNA JUST HAVE TO COUNT ON FUGITOID'S TECHNOLOGY.
I MEAN, WE'VE SEEN HIM DO SOME PRETTY MIRACULOUS STUFF ALREADY, SO MAYBE...
MAYBE NOTHIN'!
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THIS AIN'T GONNA WORK, LEO.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, RAPH.
AND NEITHER DO YOU.
YEAH, I DO. I KNOW THIS IS ALL OUR FAULT!
COME ON, RAPH—NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO LOSE IT.
NOW'S EXACTLY THE TIME, DAMMIT!
WE SCREWED UP—ALL OF US! FATHER WAS RIGHT... WE SHOULDA TAKEN CARE OF SHREDDER FIRST BUT, NO—WE HELPED THAT DAMN ROBOT WITH HIS STUPID TECHNODROME INSTEAD. AND WHAT HAPPENED?
KRANG'S STILL ALIVE, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HELL SHREDDER IS, AND OUR BROTHER'S DYIN', THAT'S WHAT!
WE SHOULDA LISTENED TO FATHER. WE SHOULDA—
SHUT UP, RAPH!
JUST SHUT UP! WE SAVED THE WORLD!
DONNIE'D BE HAPPY IF HE WAS AWAKE—HAPPY WE STOPPED THE TECHNODROME... JUST LIKE HE WANTED!
SO, PLEASE, JUST SHUT UP! YOU COMPLAIN AND COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT WE COULDA DONE BETTER...
...AND YOU'RE ONLY MAKIN' IT WORSE!


RAHH!
WHAM
DON'T GET TOO ANGRY WITH HIM.
HE'S JUST *UPSET* ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.
WE *ALL* ARE, ALOPEX.
I KNOW, LEO. RAPH JUST TENDS TO SHOW IT A LITTLE MORE... *LOUDLY* THAN THE REST OF US.
I'LL GO MAKE SURE HE'S OKAY.
HE'S RIGHT.
WHAT?
RAPH'S RIGHT—WE MAY HAVE STOPPED KRANG BUT WE HAVE *NO CLUE* WHAT'S UP WITH SHREDDER.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TODAY, *THAT'S* SOMETHING WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
AND I *PROMISE* YOU, WE WILL.
ALL I CAN SAY IS, IF SHREDDER *IS* STILL ALIVE...


"... HE'S GONNA WISH HE WASN'T."
AH, YES...
...HOME SWEET HOME.
I'LL DRINK TO THAT.
GUH!
WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN ME?
AHH... THERE YOU ARE.
THAT WAS QUITE THE NAP, SHREDDER. SLEEPING LIKE THE DEAD, DARE I SAY?
YOU HAD ME A BIT WORRIED THERE FOR A BIT.
I COULD KILL YOU NOW, SCIENTIST. ANSWER MY QUEST ON.
TSK, TSK. BARELY AWAKE AND ALREADY BARKING ORDERS.
AND AFTER I WAS NICE ENOUGH TO ALLOW YOU TO SLEEP IN MY OWN BED.
NOT VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU, I MUST SAY.

LISTEN, FOOL, I—
NO.
YOU LISTEN.
THIS IS MY HOME AND I AM NOT ONE OF YOUR SNIVELING MINIONS, NINJA.
YOU ARE ONLY ALIVE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE I SEEK TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH YOU.
SOMETHING YOU SEEMED TO BE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH WHEN I WAS SAVING YOUR SKIN FROM CERTAIN DEATH.
IF I'M TO REESTABLISH MYSELF IN THIS TOWN, I'LL REQUIRE THE KIND OF CAPITAL YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
COMBINING MY EXPERTISE WITH YOUR WEALTH FOR FUN AND PROFIT, SO TO SPEAK.
IF, HOWEVER, YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP...
...THEN I'M SURE MY FRIENDS HERE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM SEEING YOU OUT.
I MUST WARN YOU, THOUGH, THIS IS THE PENTHOUSE SUITE AND YOU WON'T BE LEAVING VIA THE ELEVATOR OR STAIRS.
INDEED.
VERY WELL, I WILL DISCUSS THIS PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU.
AND IF IT MEETS WITH MY SATISFACTION, I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE RESOURCES YOU REQUIRE—MONEY, EQUIPMENT, SECURITY.
BUT ON ONE CONDITION.
WHICH IS?
OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS...

"...S TO FIND AND DESTROY THE RAT AND HIS INFERNAL BROOD."
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHERE AM I GOING?"
I MEAN, CHILD, IT IS YOUR CHOICE WHICH PATH YOU NEXT FOLLOW— INTO THE LIGHT OR THE DARK.
PLEASE, WALK WITH ME, MY SON.
"...PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY."
I AM, DONNIE, MY SON.
LOOK AT THIS CHERRY TREE. SUCH GRAND SPLENDOR AND YET THE BEAUTY WE ARE WITNESS TO IS ONLY A PORTION OF THE FULL WONDER.
WE BEHOLD THE STURDY TRUNK WITH ITS MANY GRACEFUL BRANCHES AND THEIR ABUNDANCE OF SWEET SMELLING BLOOMS.
"BUT UNDERNEATH IT ALL, INVISIBLE TO OUR EYES, ARE THE MIGHTY ROOTS THAT ARE THE TRUE FOUNDATION FOR THE BEAUTY ABOVE."
I WILL NOT GIVE UP!
IT IS A MYSTERIOUS BALANCING ACT, ABOVE AND BELOW—THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN. JUST LIKE THE DARK AND LIGHT, ONE DOES NOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER.
YES, THERE IS CONSOLATION TO BE FOUND IN THE WARM LIGHT, BUT THERE IS ALSO KNOWLEDGE YET TO BE DISCOVERED IN THE UNCERTAIN DARK. KNOWLEDGE YOU SEEK.
AND YOU WILL NEVER BE ALONE, NO MATTER WHICH PATH YOU CHOOSE.
DONATELLO?
FATHER?
BUT...
...MOTHER?
YES, MY SON. I AM HERE.
IT'S TIME TO RETURN HOME.
PLEASE, MY SON...
...YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU.
I, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT I THINK IT'S WORKING.
WHERE, WHERE AM I?
IT IS! DONATELLO, IS THAT YOU?!
IT IS, HAROLD BUT WHY DO I FEEL SO...
WEIRD

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

ART BY KEVIN EASTMAN
COLORS BY ROBIN PATTISON

ISSUE #46

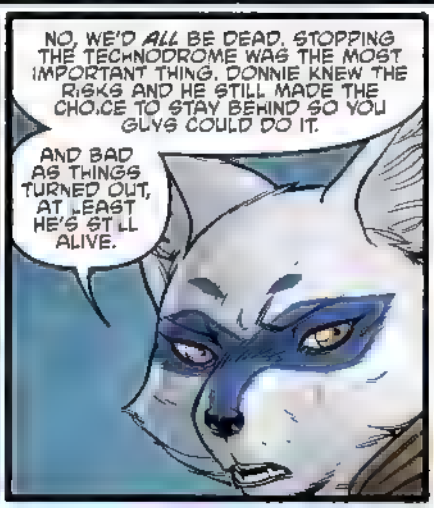
OKAY, THE CABLES ARE GOOD TO GO.
REMEMBER-- WE WANT THEM FIRMLY CONNECTED AT ALL TIMES. PROBABLY SHOULD CHECK THEM THROUGHOUT EACH DAY.
I'M SYNCHED REMOTELY TO THE MACHINE ITSELF, SO I'LL MONITOR THE DATA FEED AT ALL TIMES BUT IT NEVER HURTS TO [redacted] CHECKING IT OUT ONCE IN AWHILE
THE ANTIBIOTIC DRIP'S WORKING FINE, TOO. JUST MAKE SURE YOU FLUSH ANY AIR BUBBLES FROM THE TUBING WHENEVER YOU SWAP THE BAGS OUT.
LET'S TRY TO AVOID AN [redacted], OKAY?
AND WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THE CATHETER AREA CLEAN TO AVOID [redacted].
CHANGE THE DRESSING DAILY AND GENEROUSLY [redacted] INSERTION AREA WITH ALCOHOL PADS.
AND, PLEASE... WASH YOUR HANDS A LOT. BEFORE AND AFTER YOU DO ANY OF THIS STUFF
OKAY, THAT'S IT.

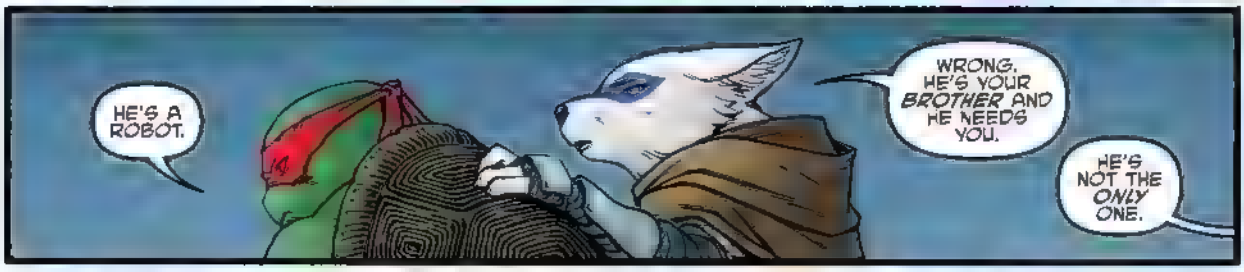
. THE BEST I CAN DO FOR MYSELF FOR NOW.

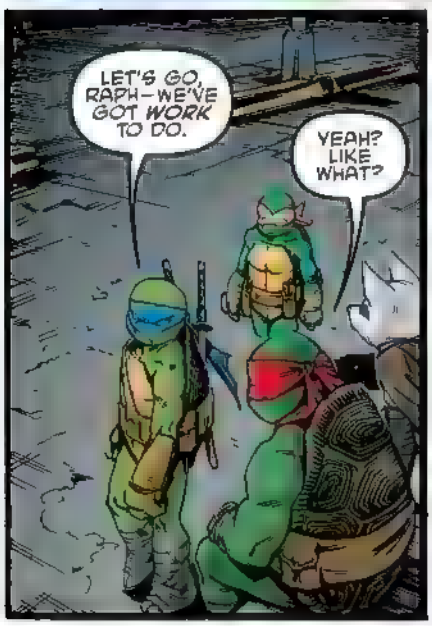
HAROLD'S GATHERING UP MORE STABILIZING EQUIPMENT SO WE CAN SAFELY TRANSPORT THE BOD–I MEAN, ME TO THE LAIR SOON.
WE'LL JUST NEED TO BE SURE TO KEEP THINGS STERILE THERE, TOO.
WE WILL WORK *CAREFULLY* TO FOLLOW YOUR EXCELLENT INSTRUCTIONS, MY SON.
YEAH, DON'T WORRY, ROBO-BRO— WE GOTCHA COVERED.
WE'LL EVEN *SPIT-SHINE* OUR MITTS IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.
NO SPIT, PLEASE, MIKE. SOAP AND HOT WATER ARE FINE.
YOU'RE HANDLIN' ALL THIS PRETTY GOOD, DONNIE. I DON'T THINK I COULD... ESPECIALLY *THIS* FAST.
YEAH, DON, YOU *SURE* YOU'RE OKAY?
HONESTLY, LEO, NO. I'M NOT.
NO MATTER HOW IT SEEMS, THIS... ALL OF THIS.
...IT'S JUST REALLY FREAKING ME OUT.
I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON HAROLD AND THE PROFESSOR
POOR DONNIE.
INDEED. THE *TURMOIL* YOUR BROTHER MUST BE EXPERIENCING, IT'S... IT'S UNFATHOMABLE. I WISH *NOTHING MORE* THAN TO GIVE HIM COMFORT.
BUT... HOW?
I DON'T KNOW, FATHER, BUT ONE THING'S *FOR SURE*...

"...HE'S DEFINITELY NOT THE ONLY ONE FREAKING OUT RIGHT NOW."
C'MON, RAPH. THINGS ARE GOING TO BE OKAY, YOU'LL SEE.
NO. WE SHOULDA DONE MORE TO PROTECT HIM, ALOPEX. WE SCREWED UP... BIG TIME.

WHAT YOU DID WAS SAVE THE WORLD.
YOU COULDN'T HELP WHAT HAPPENED TO DONNIE.
WE LEFT HIM BEHIND. IF WE WOULDA STAYED, HE'D BE ALL RIGHT NOW.


NO, WE'D ALL BE DEAD. STOPPING THE TECHNODROME WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. DONNIE KNEW THE RISKS AND HE STILL MADE THE CHOICE TO STAY BEHIND SO YOU GUYS COULD DO IT.
AND BAD AS THINGS TURNED OUT, AT LEAST HE'S STILL ALIVE.


HE'S A ROBOT.
WRONG. HE'S YOUR BROTHER AND HE NEEDS YOU.
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.


LET'S GO, RAPH—WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
YEAH? LIKE WHAT?

MIKEY'S GONNA SEE IF HE CAN FIND HOB AND HIS CREW, AND YOU AND I NEED TO CHECK ON THE FOOT AND THE REST OF THE LOCAL SUSPECTS.
FATHER THINKS THE CITY'S BOUND TO BE IN FLUX AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED AND WE NEED TO GET A HEAD ON THINGS AS QUICK AS WE CAN.

HE'S RIGHT. IT'S BETTER TO GET OUT *IN FRONT* OF WHATEVER CHANGES ARE COMING.
BUT DONNIE—
—IS IN *GOOD* HANDS. HAROLD AND FUGITOID WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
YEAH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. SITTIN' HERE MOPIN' SURE *AIN'T* SOLVIN' NOTHIN'.
NOW YOU'RE *TALKIN'*, BRO. TIME TO HIT THE STREETS.
PAST TIME—WE'RE LOSING THE *DARK*. LET'S GO.
UM... THANKS, ALOPEX.
WHAT ARE *FRIENDS* FOR, RIGHT?
YEAH.
"FRIENDS," HUH?
WHAT?
OH, NOTHIN'... *FRIEND*.
C'MON, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE AND DO A LITTLE *PATROLLIN'* OF OUR OWN.
WHERE TO FIRST?
THE SECOND TIME AROUND STORE...

"...I WANNA FIND OUT WHAT CASEY'S BEEN UP TO."
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN' HERE, DAD?!
PERFECT TIMIN'! I WAS JUST TALK N' 'BOUT YOU, KID.
LOOKS LIKE THAT AIN'T ALL YOU BEEN DOIN'. GUESS SOME TH NGS NEVER CHANGE, HUH?
WHAT? TH.S?
NAH, THIS AIN'T WHAT YER THINKIN', KID.
GUESS I JUST GOT A LITTLE THIRSTIER THAN NORMAL, IS A..L. HAPPENG WHENEVER I'M IN THE MOOD TO CELEBRATE.
L KE TONIGHT.
RIGHT. WHAT MAKES TONIGHT DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER GAZILLION T MES YOU SA D THE SAME DAMN TH NG?
THE FOOT, THAT'S WHAT.
SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES, K.D...
...THEY'RE HISTORY.

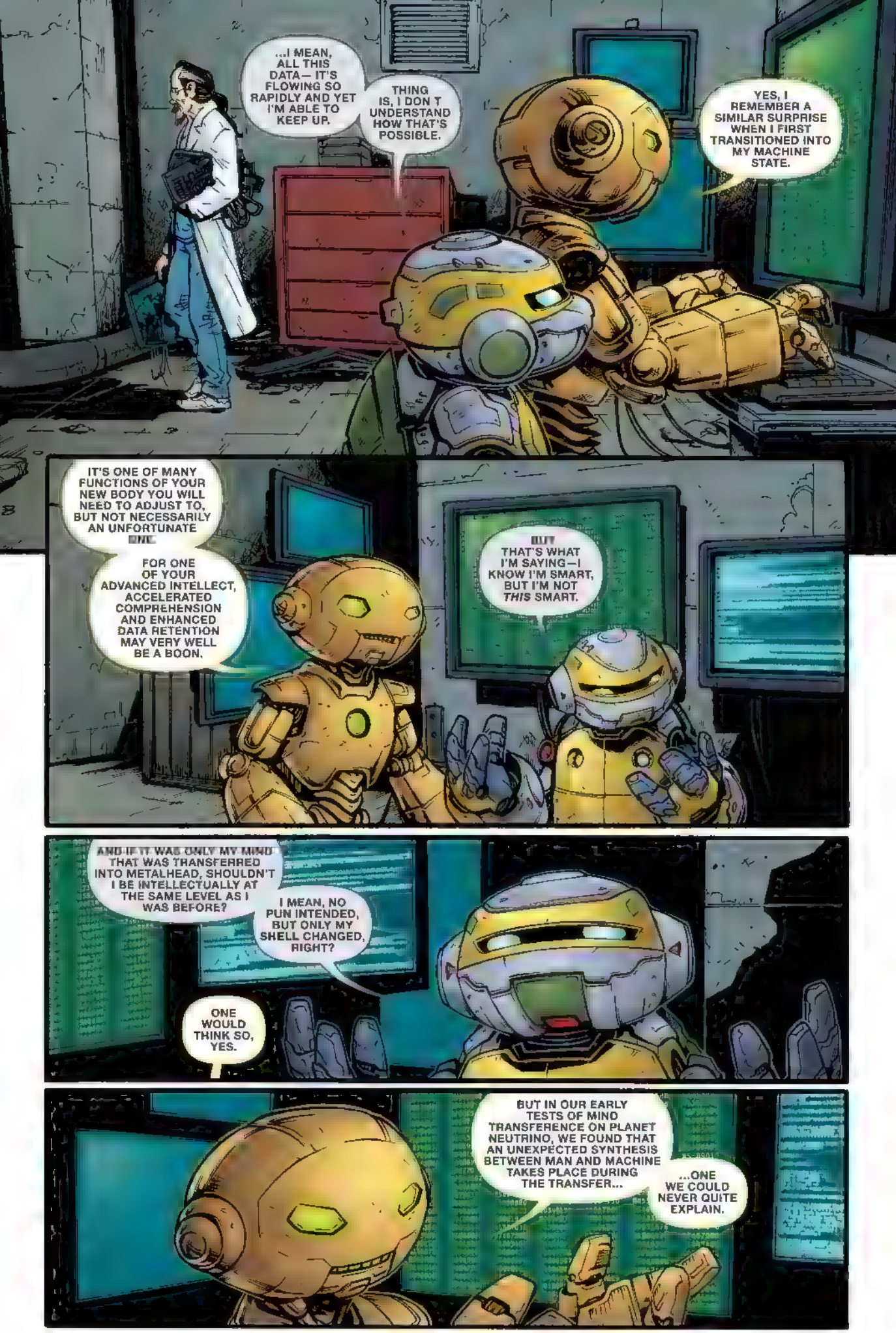
CASEY, DO... DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT?
NO—AND NEITHER DOES HE. LIQUORED UP AND TALKIN' CRAZY.
WRONG!
I TOLD YOU—I WAS THERE. THAT RAT AND HIS CREW TOOK OUT KARAI'S BUNCH RIGHT IN THE FOOT'S OWN STINKIN' BACKYARD!
AND THE NEWS FLASH ON THE STREET IS SHREDDER GOT ENDED BY THEM GREEN FREAKS YOU BEEN ALL CHUMMY WITH LATELY, TOO.
SO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YA?
I DON'T GOTTA KILL YOU NO MORE, CASE.
SHREDDER'S DEAD AND THE HIT'S OFF.
WE CAN FINALLY BE A FAMILY AGAIN. THE JONES BOYS... BACK TOGETHER!
HE'S INSANE.
NAH, HE'S JUST SICK.
SICK AND WEAK.
GET OUT OF HERE, DAD.
JUST... JUST GO.
WAIT— DIDN'T YA HEAR ME, K'D? I'M MY OWN BOSS AGAIN!
NO... YOU AIN'T YOU'RE HOLDIN' YOUR BOSS IN YOUR HAND.

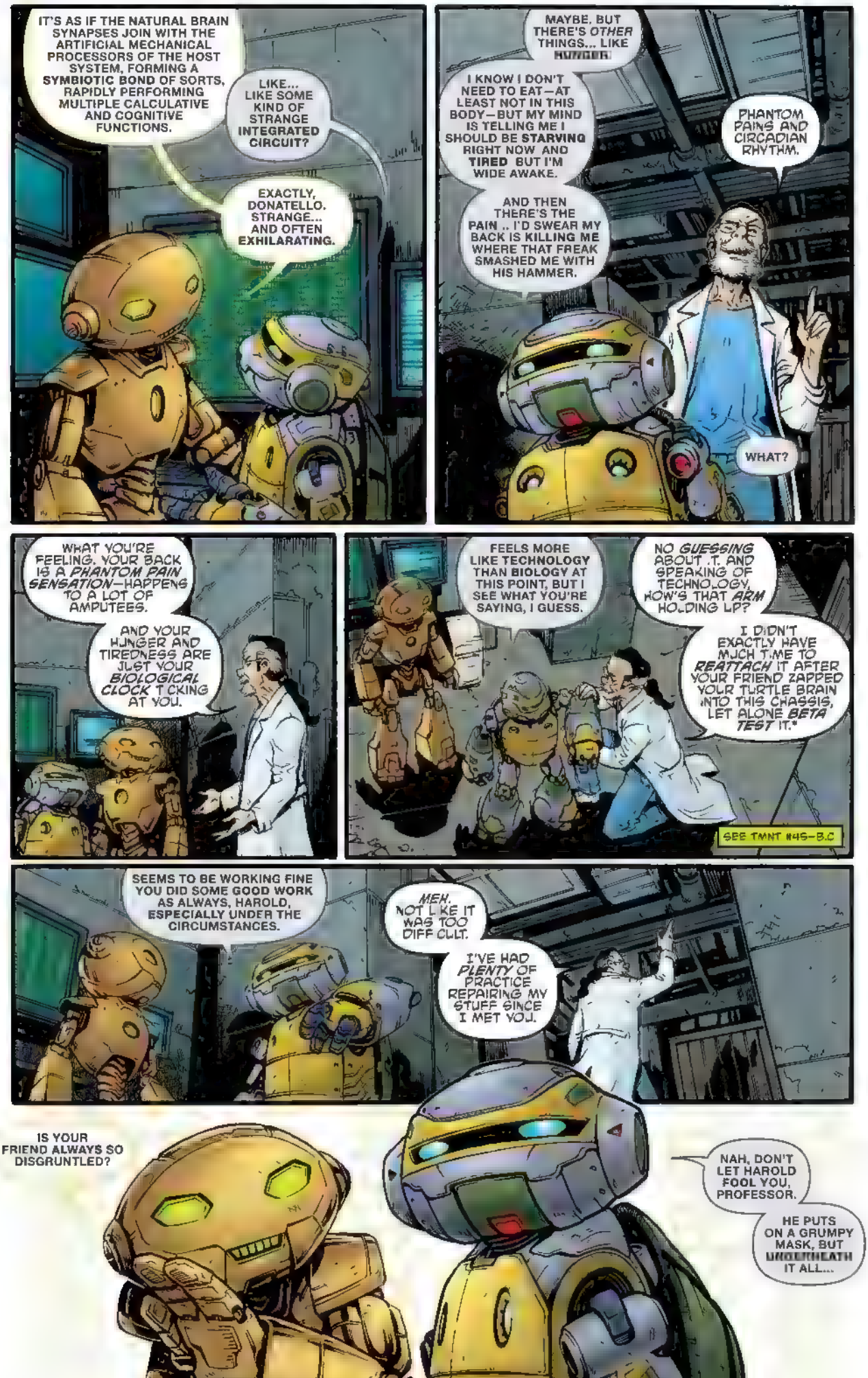
BUT, I—
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO NOW, SIR. I REALLY DO.
YEAH? YOU GONNA MAKE ME, PENCIL NECK?
WE..., LOOK AT THAT, WOULDYA?
LOOKS LIKE SHOWIN' UP IN THE NICK OF TIME'S BECOMIN' A THING FOR US, ALOPEX.
GET LOST, ARNIE.
GRRRR...
FINE. WHATEVER. YOU WANNA BE AN UNGRATEFUL LITTLE TWERP AND PICK THESE LOSERS OVER YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, THEN THAT'S ON YOU, KID.
CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY, RIGHT?
AND THE NAME'S HUN, GIRL.
HEH. MORE LIKE LUSH, YOU ASK ME.
GRAHH!

I'LL CLEAN THAT UP.
LET ME HELP YOU, SON.
MR. AND MRS. O'NEIL... THESE ARE MY FRIENDS, ANGEL AND ALOPEX.
GUYS, THESE ARE APRIL'S PARENTS.
HI.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
OH... MY.
SO HOW LONG WERE YOU HERE?
LONG ENOUGH. OLD MAN'S GIVIN' A NEW MEANIN' TO 'ROIDED AND RIPPED, I SEE. YOU OKAY?
YEAH—GOOD NEWS, DUDE WAS SPEWIN' ALL HIS NORMAL CRAP. STUPID DRUNK.
WELL, I DON'T DISAGREE 'BOUT THE STUPID PART, BUT FADED AS HE WAS, HE WASN'T LYIN' 'BOUT ONE THING— THE FOOT GOT THEIR BUTTS HANDED TO 'EM BIG TIME.
BY THE TURTLES?
MM-HM. SPLINTER, TOO.
GOOD.
NOT TOTALLY. THERE'S SOME REALLY BAD NEWS, TOO, CASEY.
"WE HAVE BEEN BATTERED
"WE HAVE BEEN BLOODIED..."

...MASTER SHREDDER IS GONE... BUT WE ARE BY NO MEANS BEATEN.
WE WILL RISE FROM THE DUST AND THE ASHES OF THIS DEFEAT AND WE WILL BECOME MORE FORMIDABLE THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN.
BUT KNOW THIS— IF I AM TO LEAD YOU NOW... IF IT IS MY DESTINY TO TAKE UP THE MANTLE MY GRANDFATHER LEAVES BEHIND... THEN THE PATH WE FOLLOW MOVING FORWARD WILL BE DIFFERENT. IT WILL BE OUR PATH AND OURS ALONE.
WE WILL NO LONGER ALLOW OUTSIDERS TO ENTER THE SANCTITY OF OUR RANKS.
THE FOOT ARE A FAMILY AND STRANGERS ARE NOT WELCOME.

WE HAVE ALLOWED OUR HONOR AND OUR FIDELITY TO BE INFECTED BY THESE FOREIGN DISEASES FOR FAR TOO LONG.
WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE PAIN THEY HAVE CAUSED OUR FAMILY.
STARTING THIS VERY NIGHT, WE WILL HUNT THEM DOWN AND WE WILL ERADICATE THEM.
WE WILL USE SWORD, TOOTH, AND NAIL TO CUT THEIR CANCER FROM OUR COLLECTIVE BEING.
WE WILL BECOME OUR OWN CURE.
OUR MASTER IS DEAD BUT OUR CLAN LIVES ON!
FOOT CLAN!
"THIS IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO TAKE IN..."


...I MEAN, ALL THIS DATA— IT'S FLOWING SO RAPIDLY AND YET I'M ABLE TO KEEP UP.
THING IS, I DON T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT'S POSSIBLE.
YES, I REMEMBER A SIMILAR SURPRISE WHEN I FIRST TRANSITIONED INTO MY MACHINE STATE.
IT'S ONE OF MANY FUNCTIONS OF YOUR NEW BODY YOU WILL NEED TO ADJUST TO, BUT NOT NECESSARILY AN UNFORTUNATE ONE.
FOR ONE OF YOUR ADVANCED INTELLECT, ACCELERATED COMPREHENSION AND ENHANCED DATA RETENTION MAY VERY WELL BE A BOON.
BUT THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING—I KNOW I'M SMART, BUT I'M NOT *THIS* SMART.
AND IF IT WAS ONLY MY MIND THAT WAS TRANSFERRED INTO METALHEAD, SHOULDN'T I BE INTELLECTUALLY AT THE SAME LEVEL AS I WAS BEFORE?
I MEAN, NO PUN INTENDED, BUT ONLY MY SHELL CHANGED, RIGHT?
ONE WOULD THINK SO, YES.
BUT IN OUR EARLY TESTS OF MIND TRANSFERENCE ON PLANET NEUTRINO, WE FOUND THAT AN UNEXPECTED SYNTHESIS BETWEEN MAN AND MACHINE TAKES PLACE DURING THE TRANSFER...
...ONE WE COULD NEVER QUITE EXPLAIN.


IT'S AS IF THE NATURAL BRAIN SYNAPSES JOIN WITH THE ARTIFICIAL MECHANICAL PROCESSORS OF THE HOST SYSTEM, FORMING A SYMBIOTIC BOND OF SORTS, RAPIDLY PERFORMING MULTIPLE CALCULATIVE AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS.
LIKE... LIKE SOME KIND OF STRANGE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT?
EXACTLY, DONATELLO. STRANGE... AND OFTEN EXHILARATING.
MAYBE. BUT THERE'S OTHER THINGS... LIKE HUNGER.
I KNOW I DON'T NEED TO EAT—AT LEAST NOT IN THIS BODY—BUT MY MIND IS TELLING ME I SHOULD BE STARVING RIGHT NOW AND TIRED BUT I'M WIDE AWAKE.
AND THEN THERE'S THE PAIN .. I'D SWEAR MY BACK IS KILLING ME WHERE THAT FREAK SMASHED ME WITH HIS HAMMER.
PHANTOM PAINS AND CIRCADIAN RHYTHM.
WHAT?
WHAT YOU'RE FEELING, YOUR BACK IS A PHANTOM PAIN SENSATION—HAPPENS TO A LOT OF AMPUTEES.
AND YOUR HUNGER AND TIREDNESS ARE JUST YOUR BIOLOGICAL CLOCK TICKING AT YOU.
FEELS MORE LIKE TECHNOLOGY THAN BIOLOGY AT THIS POINT, BUT I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, I GUESS.
NO GUESSING ABOUT IT. AND SPEAKING OF TECHNOLOGY, HOW'S THAT ARM HOLDING UP?
I DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE MUCH TIME TO REATTACH IT AFTER YOUR FRIEND ZAPPED YOUR TURTLE BRAIN INTO THIS CHASSIS, LET ALONE BETA TEST IT.*
SEE TMNT #45—B.C
SEEMS TO BE WORKING FINE YOU DID SOME GOOD WORK AS ALWAYS, HAROLD, ESPECIALLY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
MEH. NOT LIKE IT WAS TOO DIFFICULT.
I'VE HAD PLENTY OF PRACTICE REPAIRING MY STUFF SINCE I MET YOU.
IS YOUR FRIEND ALWAYS SO DISGRUNTLED?
NAH, DON'T LET HAROLD FOOL YOU, PROFESSOR.
HE PUTS ON A GRUMPY MASK, BUT UNDERNEATH IT ALL...

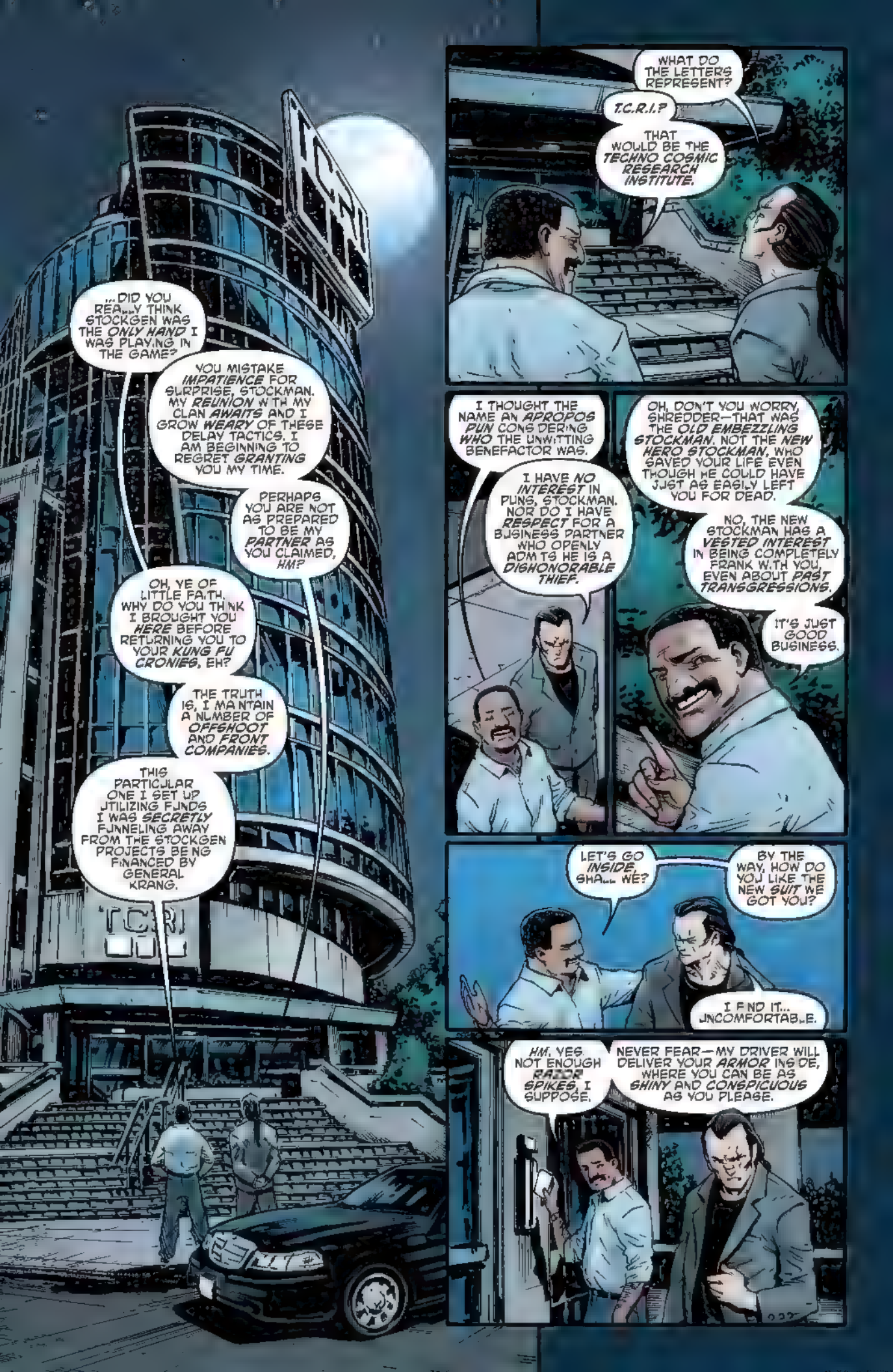
"...HE'S A REALLY GOOD GUY."
WELL, I'M SUPER-GLAD YOU AND YOUR BROS ARE ALL *ALIVE*, MIKESTER, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
BUMMER ABOUT DONNIE, BUT COULDA BEEN *WAY WORSE* IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT.
YEAH, I *KNOW*, WOODY.
RUPERT'S PIZZERIA
'SIDES, THE FUG TOID SAYS HE'S WORKIN' ON A WAY TO *FIX* DONNIE BACK TO NORMAL.
HE HAS ALL KINDS OF COOL TECH ON *BURNOW ISLAND* TO WORK WITH NOW, TOO.
SEE, *THAT'S* SOMETHING.
BUT THAT'S NOT *ALL* THAT'S BUGGIN' YOU, HUH, AMIGO?
NO, NOT REALLY. IT'S JUST...
...IT'S JUST THAT WE BEAT *KRANG*, AND WE'RE PRETTY SURE *SHREDDER*, TOO, AND STILL THE *FIRST THING* MY DAD'S GOT US DOIN' IS LOOKIN' FOR WHERE THE *NEXT TROUBLE'S* GONNA COME FROM.
IT'S, LIKE, WHAT'S THE *POINT*, DUDE?
I TRY TO ACT ALL TOUGH IN FRONT OF MY FAMILY, BUT *JUST ONCE* I WISH THE FIGHTIN' WOULD LEAD TO SOMETHIN' *GOOD* AND NOT JUST *MORE* FIGHTIN', YOU KNOW?
I HEAR YA, BRO. BUT YOU GUYS *DID* SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD FROM A GNARLY DEATH.
FAR AS YOUR OL' BUDDY WOODY'S CONCERNED, *THAT'S* A DARN GOOD THING.
THAT *IS* PRETTY *AWESOME*, HUH?
THE MIKESTER... *LIKE A BOSS!*
THANKS, MAN— I *NEEDED* THAT... AND *THIS!* NOW I GOT SOME *MUTANIMALS* TO FIND.
NO WORRIES, BRO. JUST REMEMBER, *TOUGH* AS YOU NINJA DUDES ARE...

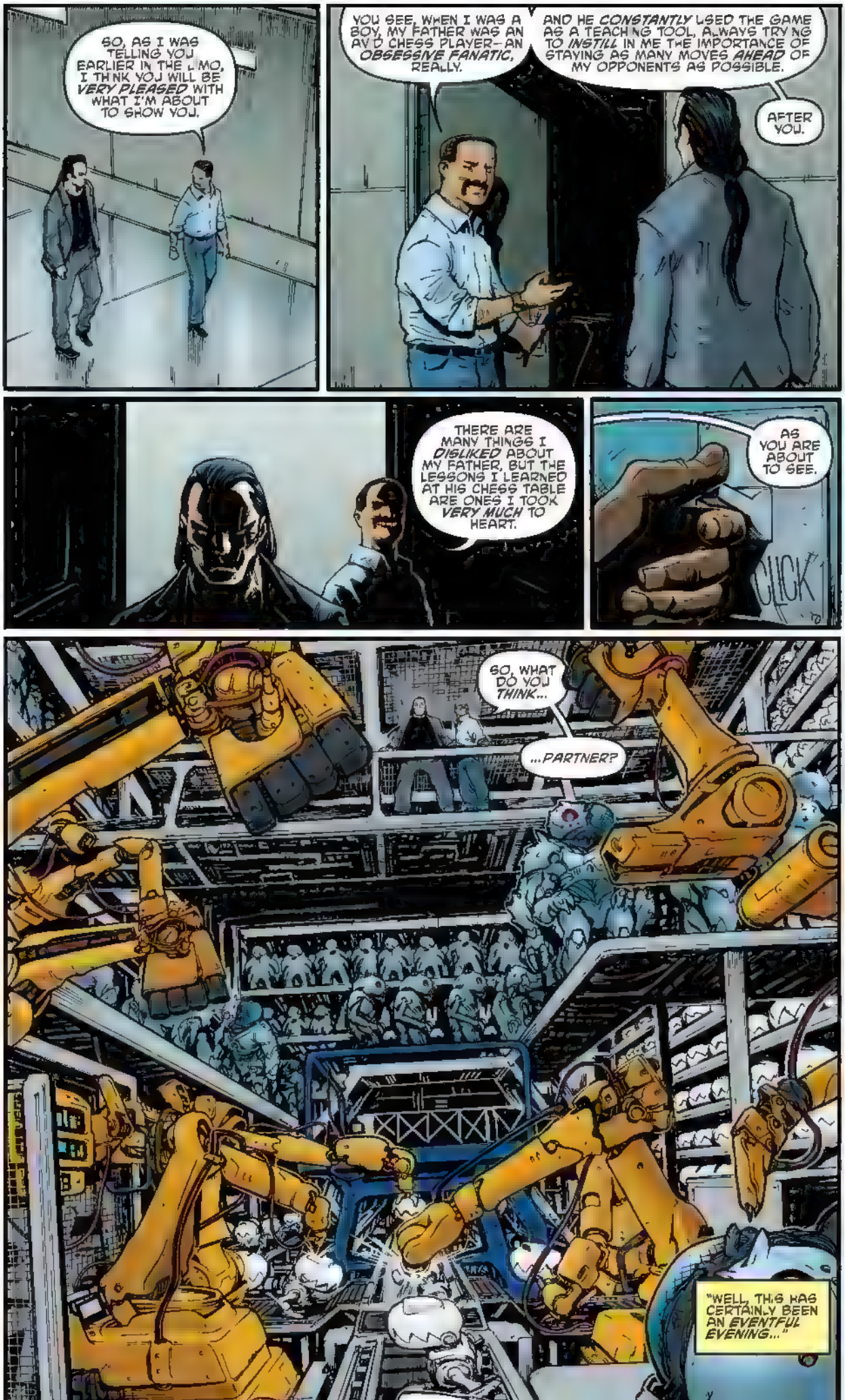
"...IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS SOMETIMES."
New York Tech Staff Parking
SLAM
CRIPES, MILLER...
...WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?
"DEMONS?"

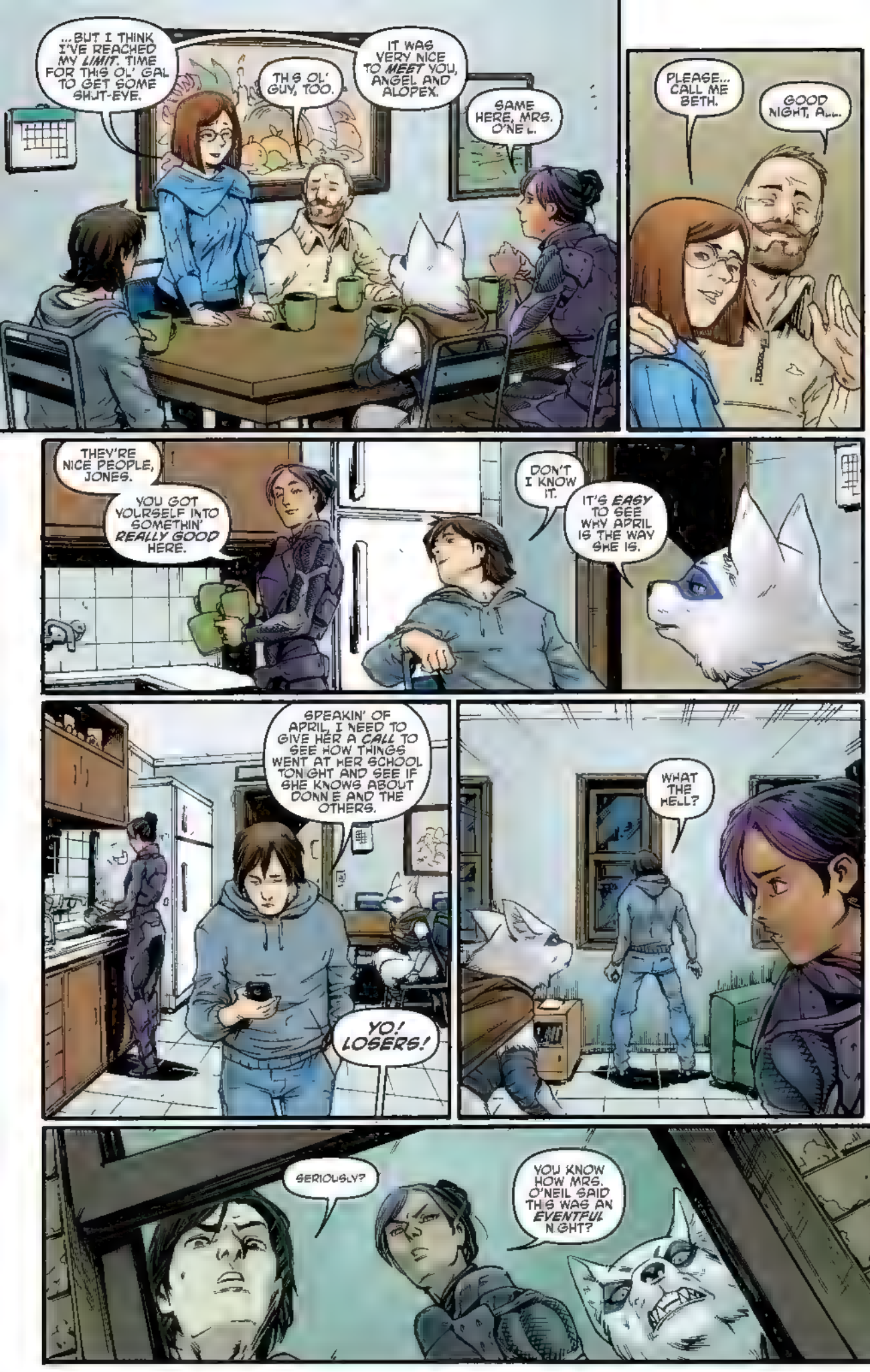
EARLIER.
THAT'S HARD TO *BELIEVE*, PROFESSOR.
HARDER TO BELIEVE THAN *MUTANT HUMANOID TURTLES* AND *ANCIENT NINJA LORDS* RETURNING FROM THE *DEAD*?
UM, YEAH. POINT TAKEN.
AS I WAS SAYING, MISS O'NEIL, IT'S ALL *RIGHT HERE* IN THE SCROLL.
ACCORDING TO THIS, THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, A *SMALL FAMILY* OF INCREDIBLY POWERFUL *IMMORTALS* RULED THE EARTH.
A *PANTHEON*, IF YOU WILL.
EACH SOUGHT TO *IMPOSE* THEIR WILL OVER THE OTHERS IN A SEEMINGLY *ENDLESS* GAME OF CONQUEST AND INTRIGUE.
BUT THEN THEY MYSTERIOUSLY *DISAPPEARED* DURING A TIME OF *GREAT CALAMITY* AND *MASSIVE DESTRUCTION*.
LIKE THE *BIBLICAL* FLOOD?
PERHAPS. THERE ARE STORIES OF A GREAT FLOOD ACROSS *MANY* RELIGIONS AND CULTURES THROUGHOUT HISTORY, SO *WHATEVER* THE SOURCE, ALL SEEM TO BE IN *AGREEMENT* IT HAPPENED.

IT CONTINUES THAT, IN TIME, THEY INSPIRED MYTH AND LEGEND, AND WERE BELIEVED TO BE GONE FOREVER.
BUT THEY WEREN'T GONE. THEY SIMPLY WAITED.
WAITED AND WATCHED AS THE CHAOS OF THE RAPIDLY MULTIPLYING MORTAL RACE OVERTOOK THE WORLD THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THEM.
WAITED? FOR WHAT?
ALL THE WHILE ANTICIPATING THE CONTINUATION OF THEIR GAME—A RESURRECTION OF THE CONTEST BETWEEN THEM THAT WOULD UNFOLD OVER LONG CENTURIES.
MORTAL CREATURES WOULD BE THEIR PAWNS, AFFECTING THE WORLD ON THE IMMORTALS' BEHALF DURING THE LONG MARCH TOWARDS AN ENDGAME...
...WITH THE ULTIMATE PRIZE BEING UNCONTESTED CONTROL OF THE WORLD.
WOW. THIS IS ALL VERY... WOW.
YES. AND THERE IS AN INDICATION IN THE TEXT THAT THERE'S A COMPANION PIECE TO IT—A BOOK OF SOME KIND—THAT'S BEING HELD SEPARATELY IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST SOMEWHERE.
WHY IN AMERICA?
I DON'T KNOW WHY—I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO DECIPHER IT AND EVERYTHING ABOUT IT IS MYSTERIOUS. I FOUND IT AMONGST THE FOOT'S ARCHIVES AND I'M NOT EVEN CERTAIN THEY KNOW IT EXISTS.
IT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY FOR QUITE SOME TIME WHEN I DISCOVERED IT AND, FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHY I TOOK IT. IT JUST FELT... SIGNIFICANT.
AND NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE IT FROM YOU.
WHAT? WAIT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THAT!
I WANT SPLINTER TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS TO SEE IF IT MAKES ANY SENSE TO HIM... AND TO FIGURE OUT IF THE FOOT ARE INVOLVED.
NOW, YOU CAN TRY TO STOP ME, BUT THAT DIDN'T GO SO WELL FOR YOU LAST TIME, DID IT, PROFESSOR?

GOOD.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH, PROFESSOR. STAY SAFE!
"STAY SAFE," SHE SAYS.
YEAH...
... RIGHT.
HELLO, PROFESSOR MILLER.
HRRGK!
SHUPP
AND GOOD-BYE.
"YOU LOOK SURPRISED, MY FRIEND..."


...DID YOU REA...Y THINK STOCKGEN WAS THE *ONLY HAND* I WAS PLAY.NG IN THE GAME?
YOU MISTAKE *IMPATIENCE* FOR SURPRISE, STOCKMAN. MY *REUNION* W TH MY CLAN *AWAITS* AND I GROW *WEARY* OF THESE DELAY TACTICS. I AM BEGINNING TO REGRET *GRANTING* YOU MY TIME.
PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT AS PREPARED TO BE MY *PARTNER* AS YOU CLAIMED, *HM?*
OH, YE OF LITTLE FA.TH. WHY DO YOU TH NK I BROUGHT YOU *HERE* BEFORE RETURNING YOU TO YOUR *KUNG FU CRONIES*, EH?
THE TRUTH IS, I MA NTAIN A NUMBER OF *OFFSHOOT* AND *FRONT COMPANIES*.
THIS PARTICULAR ONE I SET UP UTILIZING FUNDS I WAS *SECRETLY* FUNNELING AWAY FROM THE STOCKGEN PROJECTS BE NG F.NANCED BY GENERAL KRANG.
WHAT DO THE LETTERS REPRESENT?
T.C.R.I.?
THAT WOULD BE THE *TECHNO COSMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE*.
I THOUGHT THE NAME AN *APROPOS PUN* CONS DER.NG *WHO* THE UNWITTING BENEFACTOR WAS.
I HAVE *NO INTEREST* IN PUNS, STOCKMAN. NOR DO I HAVE *RESPECT* FOR A BUSINESS PARTNER WHO OPENLY ADM TS HE IS A *DISHONORABLE THIEF*.
OH, DON'T YOU WORRY, SHREDDER—THAT WAS THE *OLD EMBEZZLING STOCKMAN*. NOT THE *NEW HERO STOCKMAN*, WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE EVEN THOUGH HE COULD HAVE JUST AS EASILY LEFT YOU FOR DEAD.
NO, THE NEW STOCKMAN HAS A *VESTED INTEREST* IN BEING COMPLETELY FRANK W.TH YOU, EVEN ABOUT *PAST TRANSGRESSIONS*.
IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS.
LET'S GO *INSIDE*, SHA... WE?
BY THE WAY, HOW DO YOJ LIKE THE NEW *SUIT* WE GOT YOU?
I F ND IT... JNCOMFORTAB..E.
HM. YES. NOT ENOUGH *RAZOR SPIKES*, I SUPPOSE.
NEVER FEAR—MY DRIVER WILL DELIVER YOUR *ARMOR* INS DE, WHERE YOU CAN BE AS *SHINY* AND *CONSPICUOUS* AS YOU PLEASE.


SO, AS I WAS TELLING YOU EARLIER IN THE LIMO, I THINK YOU WILL BE VERY PLEASED WITH WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU.
YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS A BOY, MY FATHER WAS AN AVID CHESS PLAYER- AN OBSESSIVE FANATIC, REALLY.
AND HE CONSTANTLY USED THE GAME AS A TEACHING TOOL, ALWAYS TRYING TO INSTILL IN ME THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING AS MANY MOVES AHEAD OF MY OPPONENTS AS POSSIBLE.
AFTER YOU.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I DISLIKED ABOUT MY FATHER, BUT THE LESSONS I LEARNED AT HIS CHESS TABLE ARE ONES I TOOK VERY MUCH TO HEART.
AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE.
CLICK
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK...
...PARTNER?
"WELL, THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN AN EVENTFUL EVENING..."


...BUT I THINK I'VE REACHED MY *LIMIT*. TIME FOR THIS OL' GAL TO GET SOME SHUT-EYE.
TH S OL' GUY, TOO.
IT WAS VERY NICE TO *MEET* YOU, ANGEL AND ALOPEX.
SAME HERE, MRS. O'NE L.
PLEASE... CALL ME BETH.
GOOD NIGHT, A...
THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE, JONES.
YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO SOMETHIN' *REALLY GOOD* HERE.
DON'T I KNOW IT.
IT'S *EASY* TO SEE WHY APRIL IS THE WAY SHE IS.
SPEAKIN' OF APRIL, I NEED TO GIVE HER A *CALL* TO SEE HOW THINGS WENT AT HER SCHOOL TON GHT AND SEE IF SHE KNOWS ABOUT DONN E AND THE OTHERS.
YO! LOSERS!
WHAT THE HELL?
SERIOUSLY?
YOU KNOW HOW MRS. O'NEIL SAID TH S WAS AN *EVENTFUL* N GHT?

"LOOKS LIKE WE'RE JUST GETTIN' TO THE *MAIN EVENT.*"
TIME FOR THE *PURPLE DRAGONS* TO REMIND THIS STREET WHO'S *REALLY* IN CHARGE!

ART BY KEVIN EASTMAN
COLORS BY ROBIN PATTISON

FCBD

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

MY NAME IS HAMATO YOSHI.
I AM ALSO CALLED SPLINTER.
IN TWO LIFETIMES, I HAVE BEEN A NINJA MASTER AND I HAVE BEEN A FATHER.
AS A NINJA, I HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO TRAIN MY MIND AND MY BODY TO WITHSTAND AND OVERCOME A WARRIOR'S MANY TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.
I HAVE STRIVED FOR ABSOLUTE DISCIPLINE THROUGH BOTH VICTORY AND DEFEAT.
BUT AS FOR FATHERHOOD, NO AMOUNT OF TRAINING...
...NO AMOUNT OF DISCIPLINE...
...COULD HAVE PREPARED ME FOR THE UTTER JOY IT HAS BROUGHT TO MY TWO LIFETIMES.
NOR THE IMMEASURABLE PAIN.

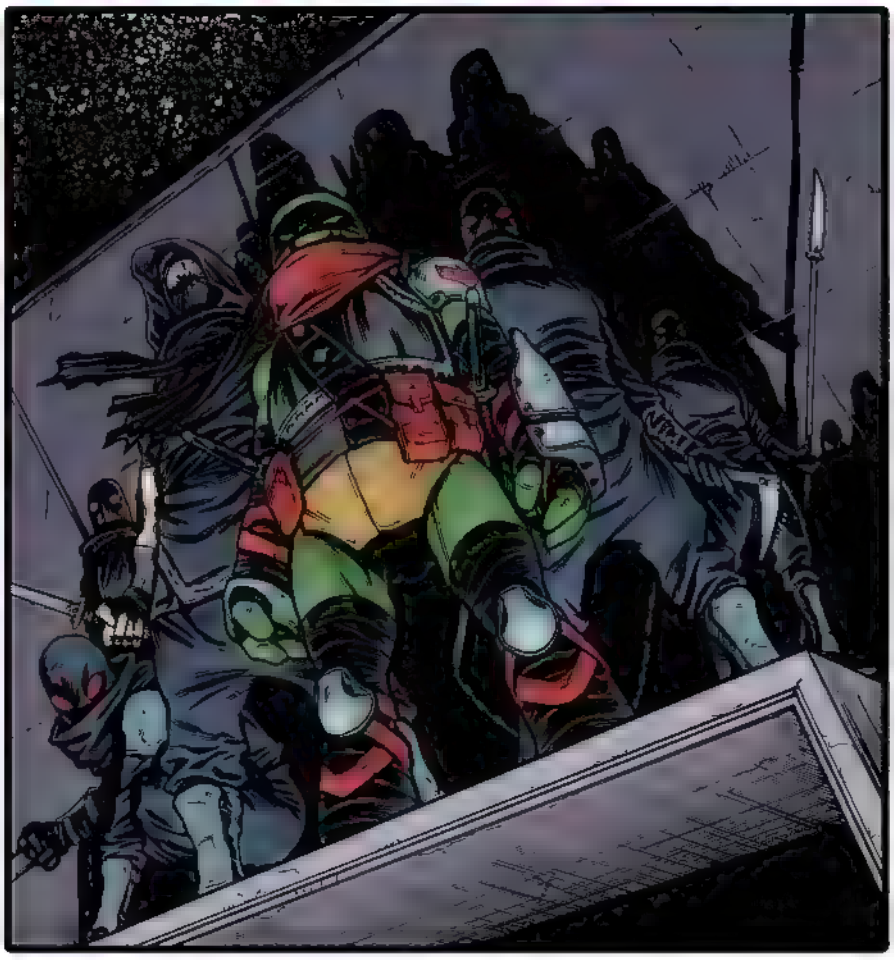
THROUGHOUT IT ALL, I HAVE ENDEAVORED TO MAINTAIN MY HONOR.
IN THE FACE OF EVIL, I HAVE *NEVER* COMPROMISED MY PRINCIPLES.
A DOGMATIC PURSUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HAS CREATED AN *ETERNAL ENEMY.*
TAKEN MY *BELOVED WIFE.*
STOLEN MY *HOME.*
AND EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE SPARED FOR A TIME...
...MY UNYIELDING ADHERENCE TO STRICT IDEOLOGIES MADE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF MY *FOUR PRECIOUS SONS* AS WELL.
ALL MY BEST INTENTIONS TRANSFORMED INTO A NIGHTMARISH CURSE, AND I COULD ONLY PRAY THAT *JUSTICE* WOULD SOMEHOW, SOMEDAY BE SERVED.

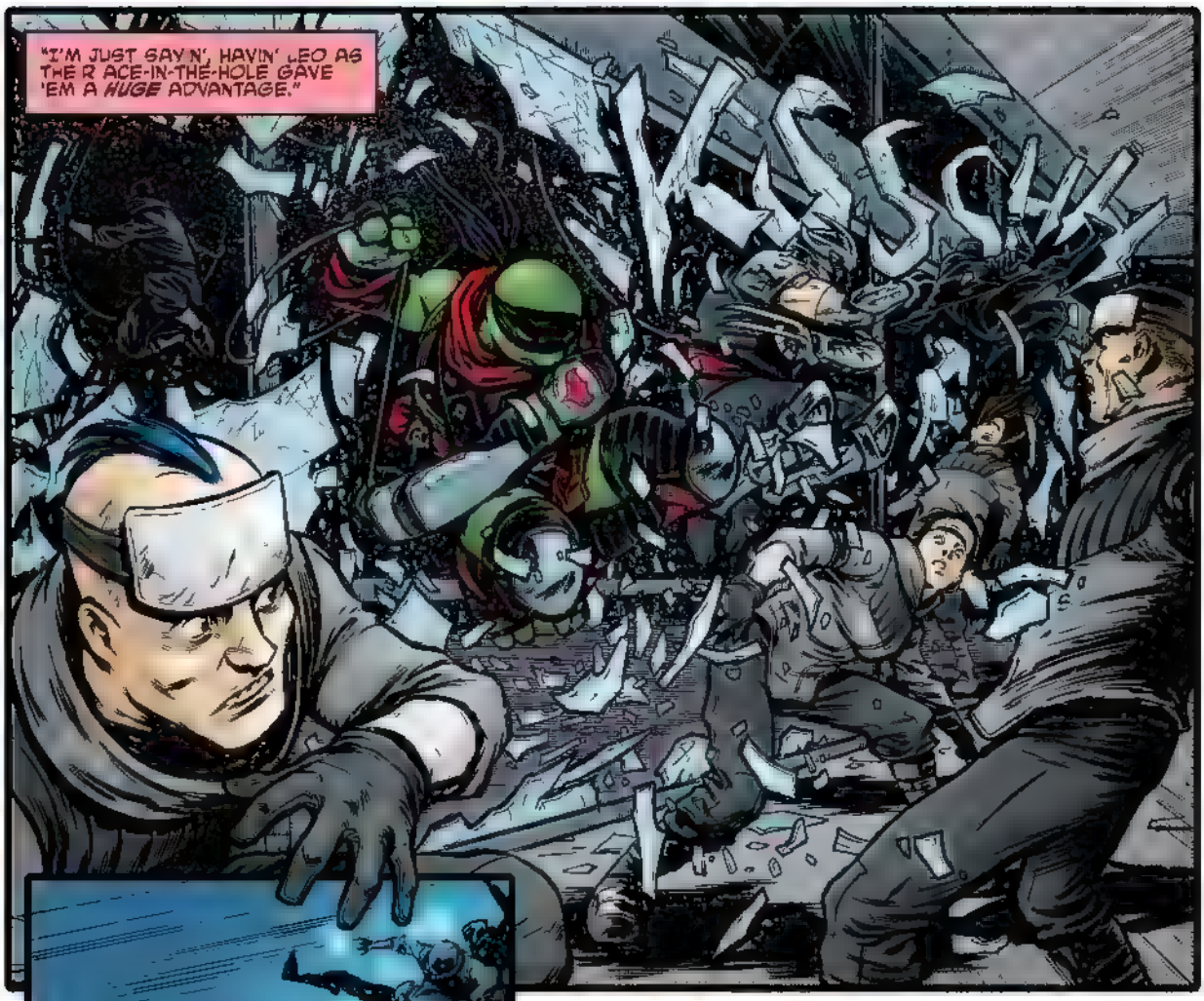
AMAZINGLY, THE UNIVERSE *ANSWERED* MY PRAYERS, THOUGH IN A MOST MYSTERIOUS FASHION.
MY BEAUTIFUL SONS AND I HAD BEEN *RETURNED* FROM OUR UNTIMELY DEATHS...
...NEWLY FORMED AND TRAPPED IN A *FAR FUTURE* TIME AND PLACE.
BUT FATE AND DESTINY WOULD *NOT* BE DENIED, AND WE SOON FOUND OURSELVES FREE AND METAMORPHOSED EVER CLOSER TO THE HUMANITY WE HAD LOST CENTURIES BEFORE.
YET ONCE MORE AT ODDS WITH THE *VERY SAME* GNOBLE ENEMY FROM OUR ANCIENT HISTORY.
HAUNTED ECHOES OF THE PAST RESOUNDING AGAIN, AND DEFYING *ALL* LOGICAL EXPLANATION.
EXTRAORDINARY...

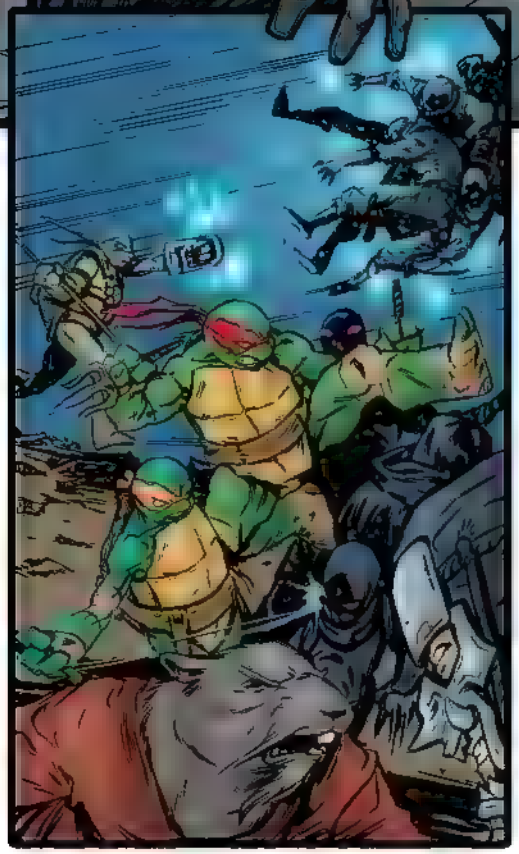
...BUT NO LESS DEADLY.
DONATELLO. MY SON. MY HERO.
HE VERY NEARLY *LOST* HIS LIFE SO OTHERS COULD LIVE ON. NOT JUST HIS FAMILY...
...BUT THE *ENTIRE* WORLD.
AND NOW HE EXISTS *BETWEEN* TWO WORLDS.
HIS *BROKEN BODY* CONFINED TO THIS BED.
HIS *INDOMITABLE SOUL* TRAPPED WITHIN A MACHINE.
HE HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO THIS WAR. SO AS HIS FAMILY—AS HIS FELLOW WARRIORS—WE WILL *HONOR* HIS SACRIFICE.
AS WE CARE FOR THE FALLEN...

"...AND AS WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT."
HEY, GUYS, NO SIGN OF THE MUTANIMALS ANYWHERE...
...AND I LOOKED HIGH AND LOW, TRUST ME.
GOTTA GO PRETTY STINKIN' LOW IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR HOB AND HIS CREW.
AT LEAST YOU TRIED, MIKEY. I HAVE MY DOUBTS THEY'D HELP US EVEN IF YOU DID FIND THEM...
"...SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE'S OUT FOR THEMSELVES NOW THAT SHREDDER'S OUT OF THE PICTURE."
LOOK AT THAT, WOULDJA?
PURPLE DRAGONS STRUTTIN' AROUND LIKE A BUNCHA CHICKENS WITH THEIR HEADS CUT OFF.
EXCEPT THEY DON'T SEEM TOO CHICKEN ABOUT GETTING CAUGHT. THEY'VE DEFINITELY GOTTEN MORE RECKLESS LATELY.
PROBABLY 'CAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE HUN BOSSIN' THEM AROUND SO MUCH ANYMORE.
DUMB THUGS CAN'T THINK FOR THEMSELVES.
DUMB FOR SURE, BUT BEING LEADERLESS MAKES THEM MORE UNPREDICTABLE AND DANGEROUS, TOO. "ALL WRONG-DOING ARISES BECAUSE OF MIND."
AT LEAST THAT'S HOW SENSEI PUTS IT.
WELL, HOWEVER YOU ZENHEADS SAY IT, ONE THING'S FOR SURE—
—RIGHT WHEN WE THINK WE GOT THINGS FIGURED OUT, THEY GO AND GET ALL CRAZY ON US AGAIN...

"...JUST LIKE ALWAYS."
"YEAH—IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY WHEN *THE FOOT* WERE JUST TRYIN' TO TAKE OVER THE STREETS...
"...BACK WHEN THOSE *SAVATE* DUDES WERE STILL AROUND."
"MAN, I THOUGHT THOSE FRENCH GUYS WERE TOUGH BUT *SHREDDER'S* GOONS TORE THROUGH 'EM LIKE NOTHIN'.


"'COURSE IT DIDN'T HURT HAVIN' *YOU* ON THEIR SIDE, LEO."
"NOT EXACTLY *MY* CHOICE."
"YEAH—LEO WAS *BRAINWASHED*, RAPH!"
"NO DUH, MIKEY."

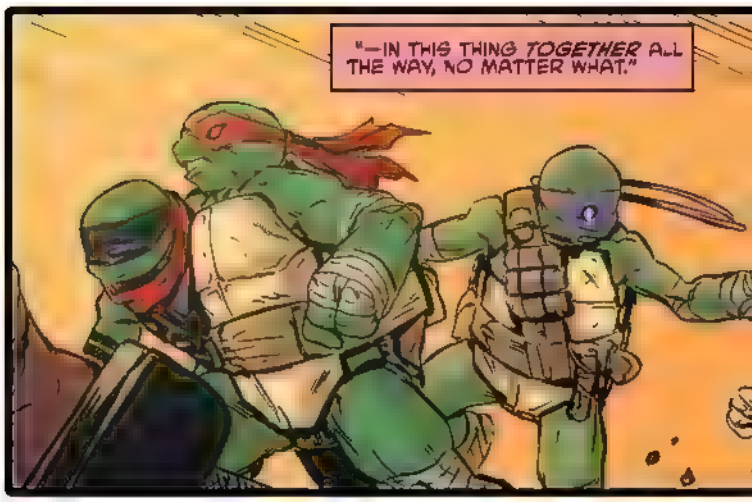




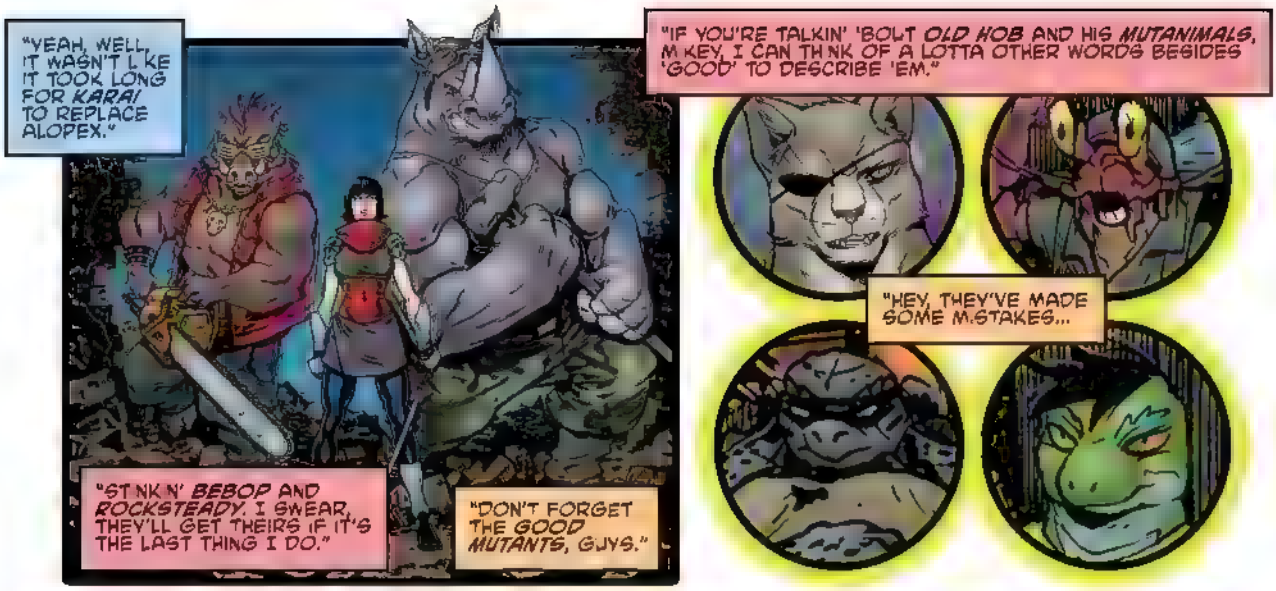
"I GUESS. I'M JUST GLAD YOU GUYS PULLED ME *OUT* OF THAT MESS."

"HEY, *NO WAY* WE WERE GONNA LET YOU DOWN, B.G BRO!"

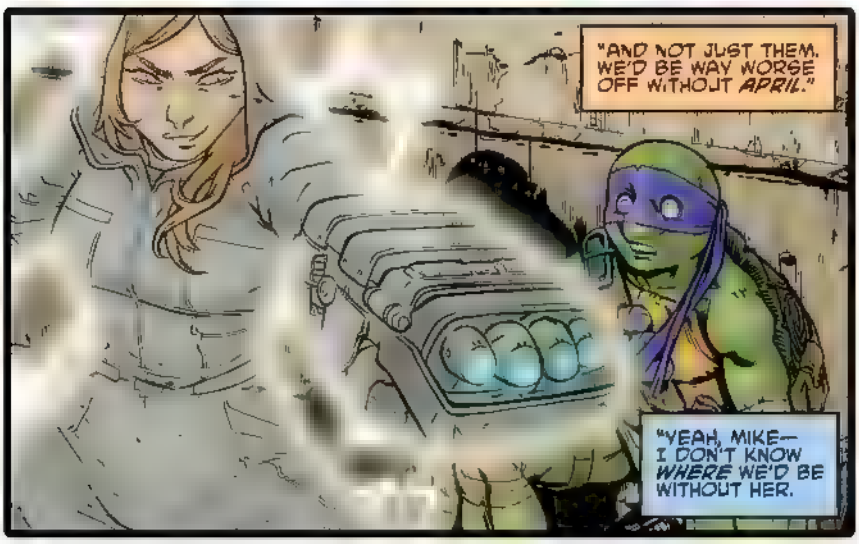
"M KEY'S RIGHT. WE'RE *FAMILY*—

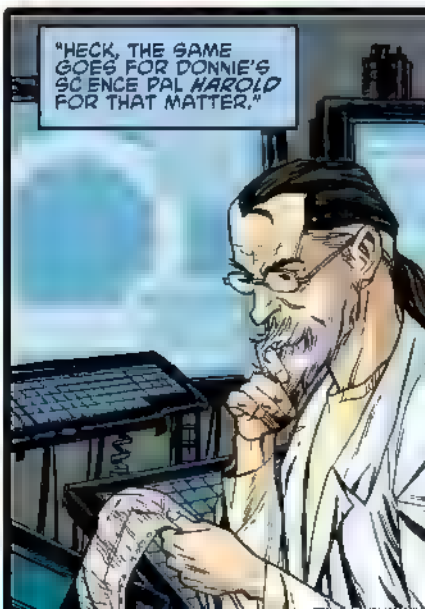


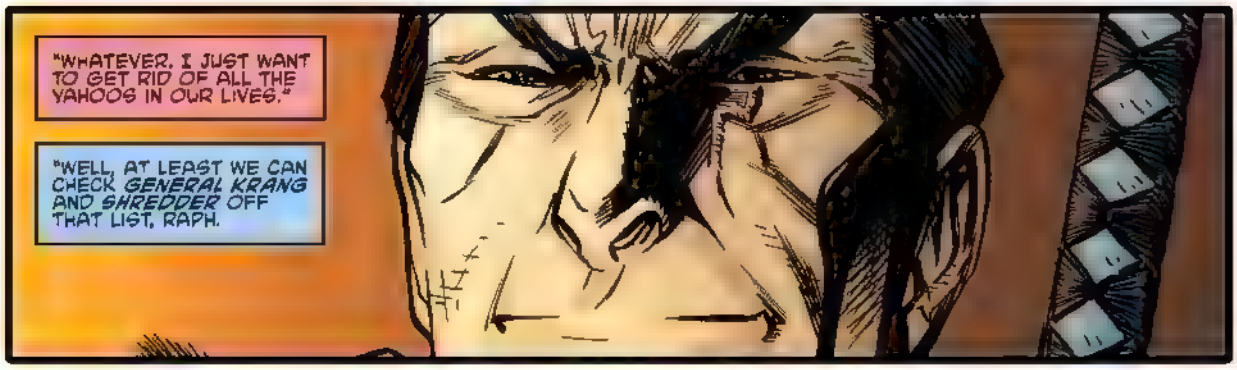
"TOO BAD NOT ALL FAMILIES ARE AS TIGHT AS US—MIGHT BE A BETTER WORLD. I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT POOR *CASEY* AND HIS DAD."
"YEAH, HIS AND HUN'S RELATIONSHIP IS PRETTY DYSFUNCTIONAL."
"ONLY THING DYSFUNCTIONAL IN *THAT* RELATIONSHIP'S HUN'S PUNY BRAIN, LEO."
"MAYBE, RAPH. AT LEAST CASEY'S BEEN ABLE TO TURN HIS BACK ON THAT LIFE."
"*ANGEL*, TOO. THE STUFF SHE DOES AS *NOBODY* IS TOTALLY AMAZING!"
"WHAT ABOUT *ALOPEX*? ONE MINUTE SHE'S SHREDDER AND KARAI'S LITTLE LAPDOG..."
"...NEXT MINUTE SHE SHOWS UP OUTTA NOWHERE ASKIN' TO BE ON ANGEL'S TEAM. SOMETIMES THE WORLD GOES BONKERS IN *GOOD WAYS*, HUH?"
"YOU JUST THINK IT'S GOOD 'CAUSE YOU GET TO HANG OUT WITH ALOPEX MORE. RAPH AND ALOPEX, SITTIN' IN TREE, K-I-S—"
"SHUT UP, MIKEY!"


"YEAH, WELL, IT WASN'T LIKE IT TOOK LONG FOR KARAI TO REPLACE ALOPEX."
"IF YOU'RE TALKIN' 'BOUT OLD HOB AND HIS MUTANIMALS, MIKEY, I CAN THINK OF A LOTTA OTHER WORDS BESIDES 'GOOD' TO DESCRIBE 'EM."
"HEY, THEY'VE MADE SOME MISTAKES...
"STINKIN' BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY. I SWEAR, THEY'LL GET THEIRS IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO."
"DON'T FORGET THE GOOD MUTANTS, GUYS."

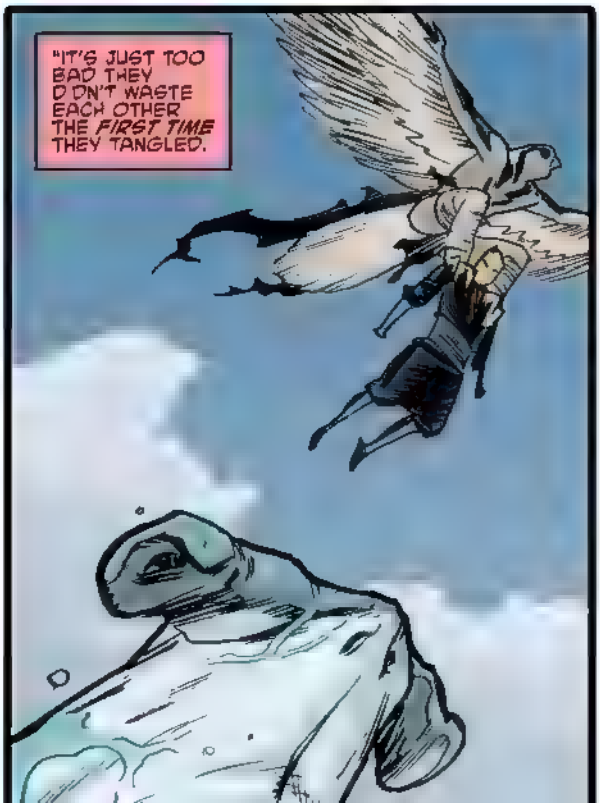
"...BUT YOU GOTTA ADMIT THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR US WHEN WE'VE NEEDED 'EM, TOO.

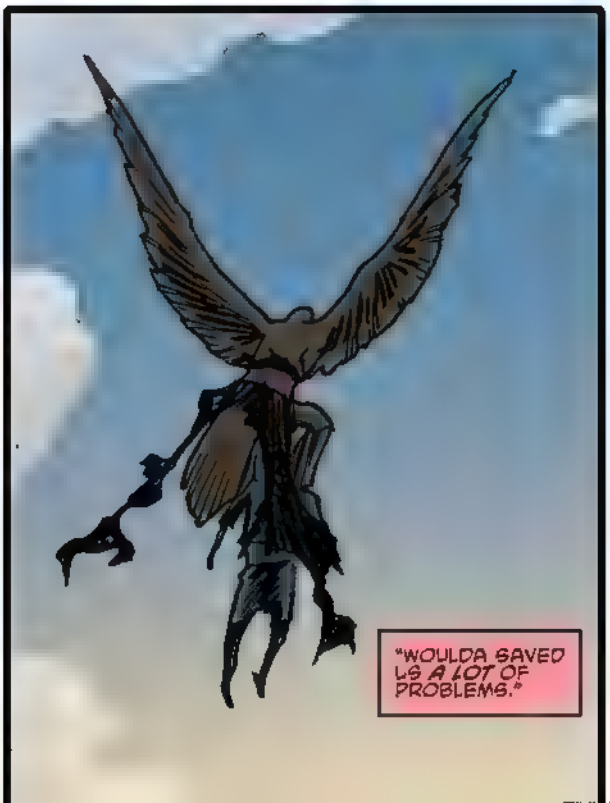

"AND NOT JUST THEM. WE'D BE WAY WORSE OFF WITHOUT APRIL."
"YEAH, MIKE— I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'D BE WITHOUT HER.


"HECK, THE SAME GOES FOR DONNIE'S SCIENCE PAL HAROLD FOR THAT MATTER."


"WHATEVER. I JUST WANT TO GET RID OF ALL THE YAHOOS IN OUR LIVES."
"WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN CHECK *GENERAL KRANG* AND *SHREDDER* OFF THAT LIST, RAPH.

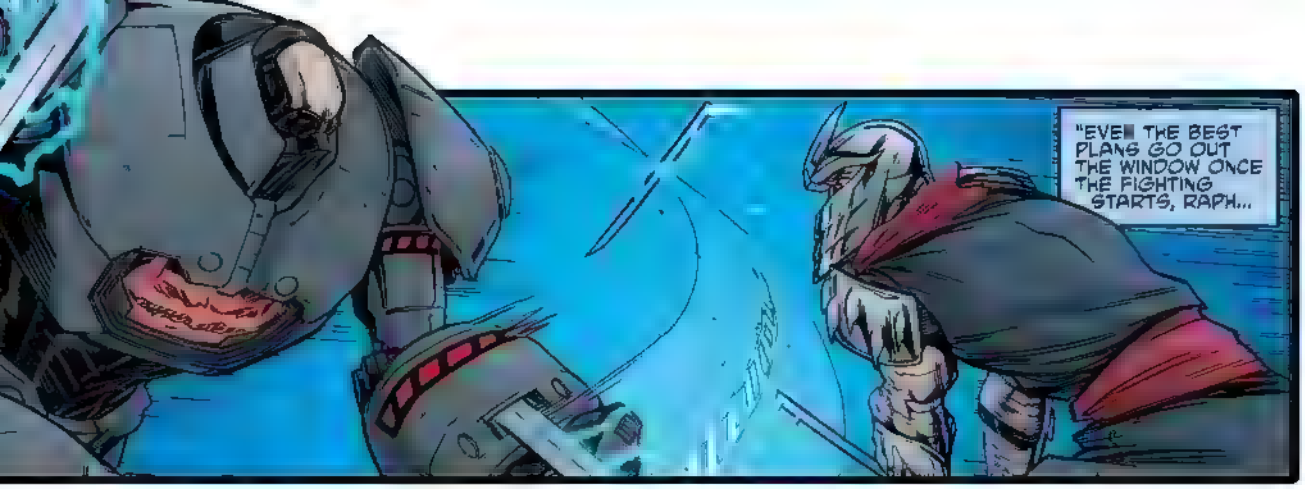
"THOSE TWO HATING EACH OTHER'S GUTS HAS REALLY HELPED US STRATEGICALLY."

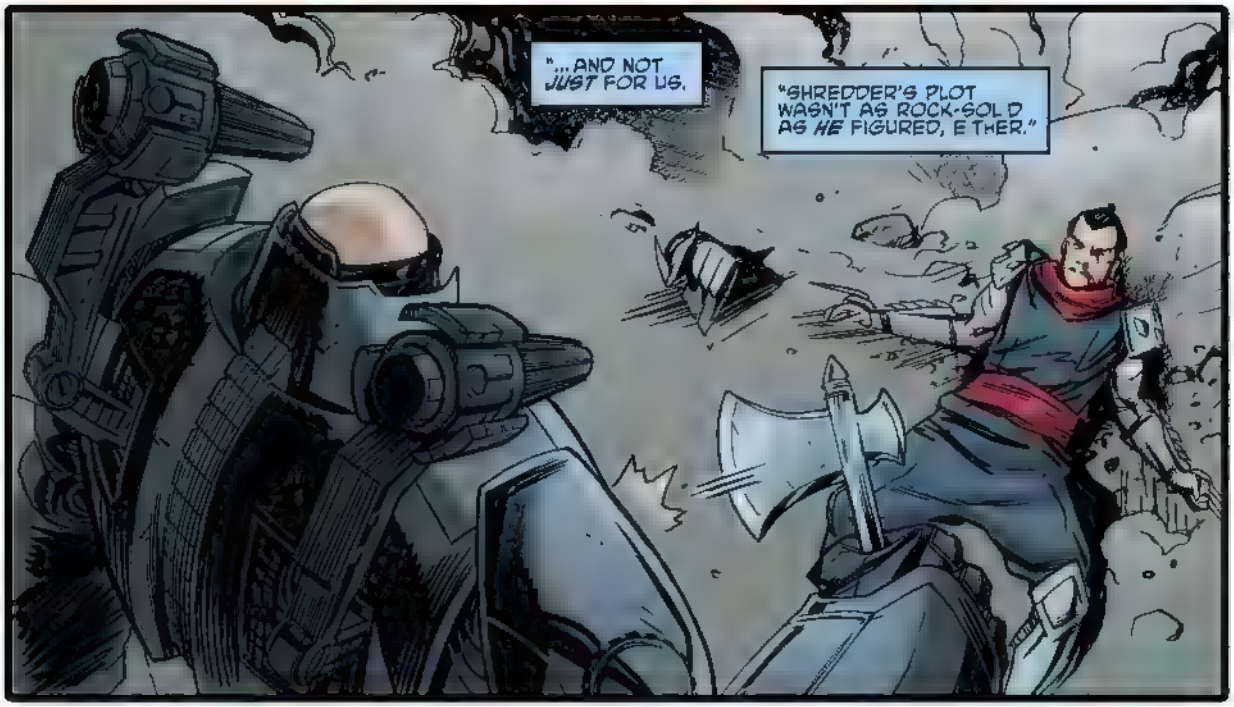

"IT'S JUST TOO BAD THEY D'DN'T WASTE EACH OTHER THE *FIRST TIME* THEY TANGLED.


"WOULDA SAVED US *A LOT* OF PROBLEMS."

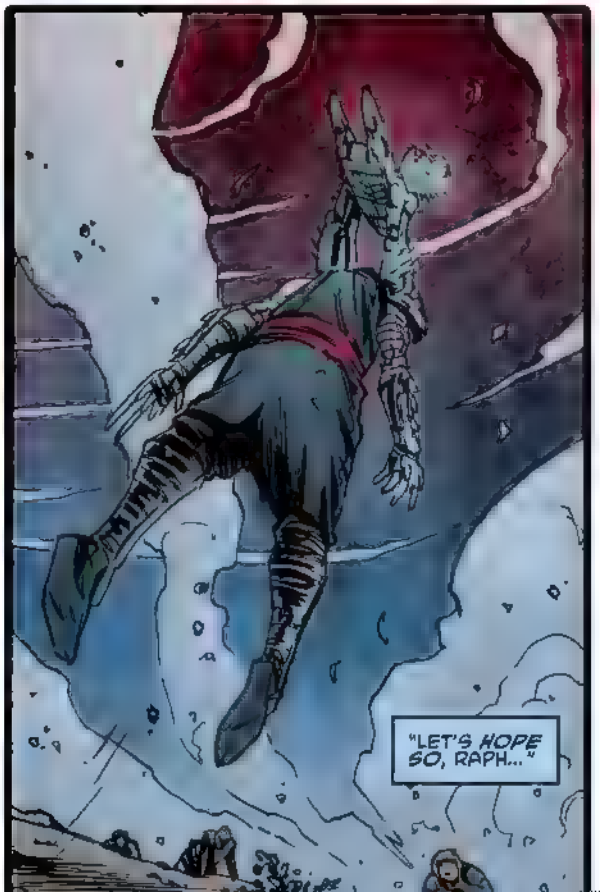
"STILL, THAT SKIRMISH *DID* OPEN SOME TACTICAL DOORS FOR US, RAPH."
"DONNIE'S IDEA FOR USING *METALHEAD* TO GET TO SHREDDER WAS GENIUS.

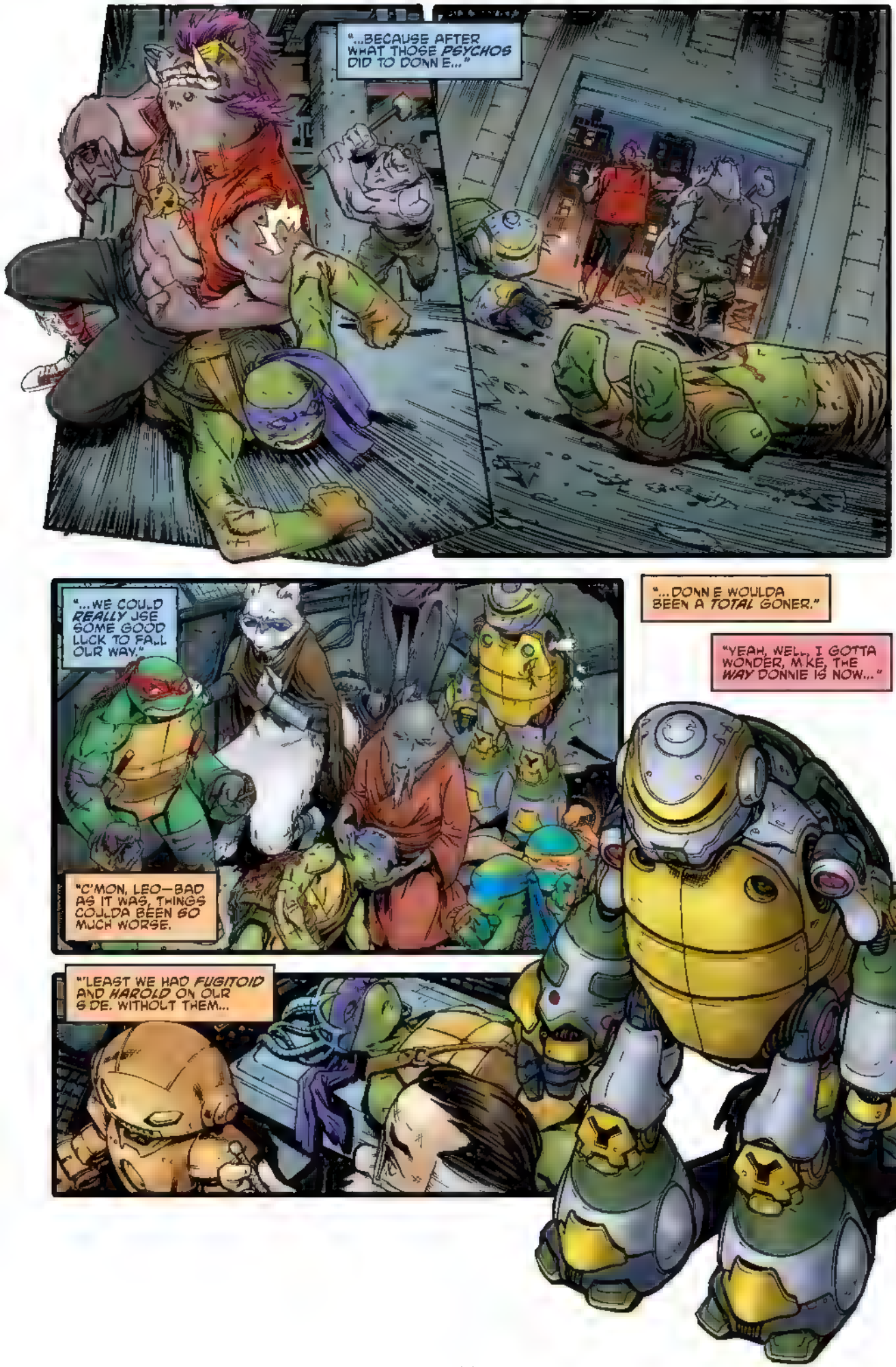
"'CEPT THE PART ABOUT SHREDDER LEAVIN' *BEBOP* AND *ROCKSTEADY* BEHIND TO *GUARD* DONNIE."

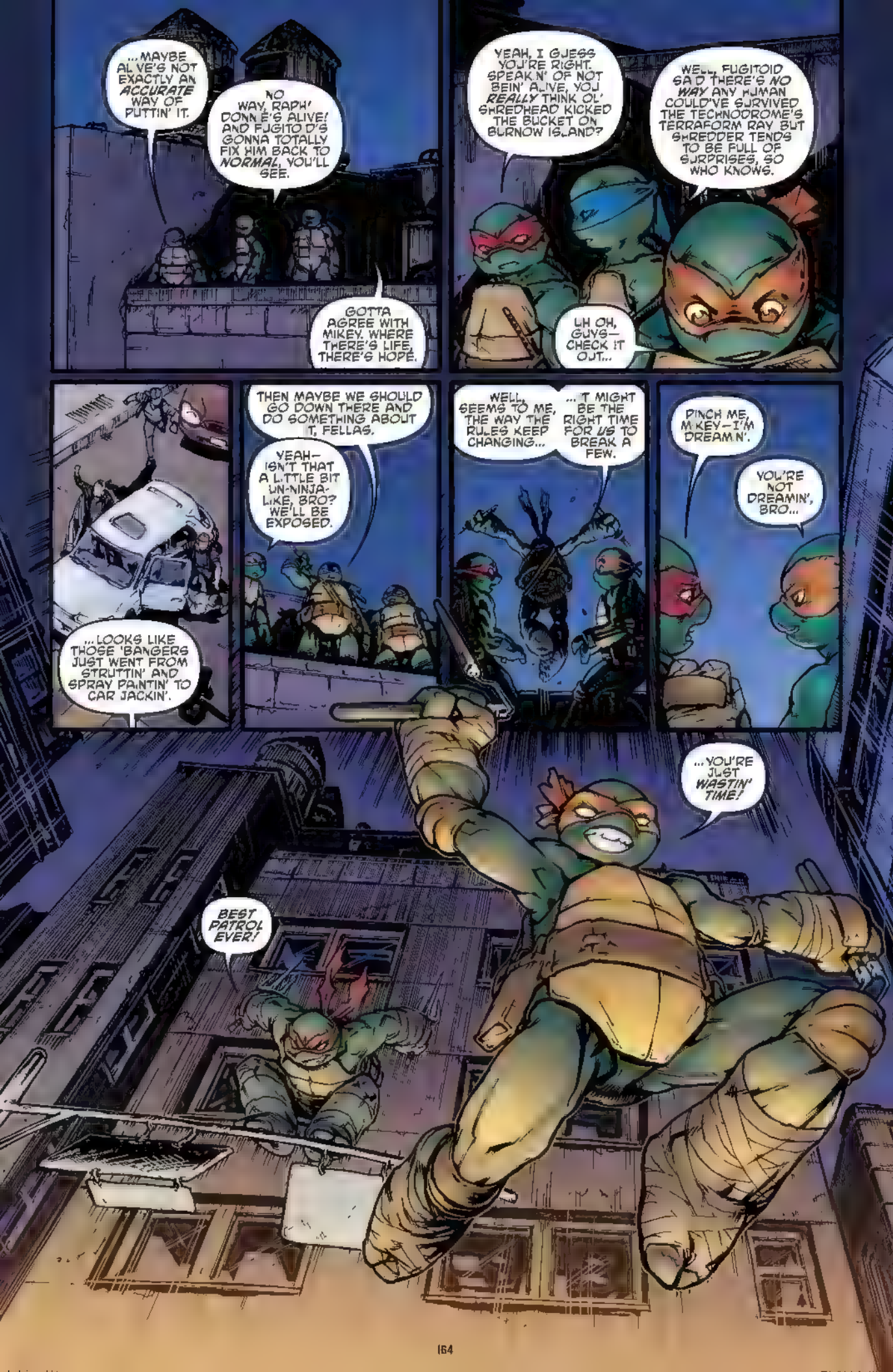

"EVEN THE BEST PLANS GO OUT THE WINDOW ONCE THE FIGHTING STARTS, RAPH...


"...AND NOT JUST FOR US.
"SHREDDER'S PLOT WASN'T AS ROCK-SOLID AS HE FIGURED, EITHER."

"TRUE THAT. DIDN'T WORK OUT SO GOOD FOR HIM, DID IT?"


"LET'S HOPE SO, RAPH..."


"...BECAUSE AFTER WHAT THOSE PSYCHOS DID TO DONNIE..."
"...WE COULD REALLY USE SOME GOOD LUCK TO FALL OUR WAY."
"...DONNIE WOULDA BEEN A TOTAL GONER."
"YEAH, WELL, I GOTTA WONDER, MIKE, THE WAY DONNIE IS NOW..."
"C'MON, LEO—BAD AS IT WAS, THINGS COULDA BEEN SO MUCH WORSE.
"LEAST WE HAD FUGITOID AND HAROLD ON OUR SIDE. WITHOUT THEM...


...MAYBE ALIVE'S NOT EXACTLY AN ACCURATE WAY OF PUTTIN' IT.
NO WAY, RAPH! DONNIE'S ALIVE! AND FUGITOID'S GONNA TOTALLY FIX HIM BACK TO NORMAL, YOU'LL SEE.
GOTTA AGREE WITH MIKEY. WHERE THERE'S LIFE, THERE'S HOPE.
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. SPEAKIN' OF NOT BEIN' ALIVE, YOU REALLY THINK OL' SHREDHEAD KICKED THE BUCKET ON BURNOW ISLAND?
WELL, FUGITOID SAID THERE'S NO WAY ANY HUMAN COULD'VE SURVIVED THE TECHNODROME'S TERRAFORM RAY BUT SHREDDER TENDS TO BE FULL OF SURPRISES, SO WHO KNOWS.
UH OH, GUYS— CHECK IT OUT...
...LOOKS LIKE THOSE 'BANGERS JUST WENT FROM STRUTTIN' AND SPRAY PAINTIN' TO CAR JACKIN'.
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD GO DOWN THERE AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, FELLAS.
YEAH— ISN'T THAT A LITTLE BIT UN-NINJA-LIKE, BRO? WE'LL BE EXPOSED.
WELL, SEEMS TO ME, THE WAY THE RULES KEEP CHANGING... ...IT MIGHT BE THE RIGHT TIME FOR US TO BREAK A FEW.
PINCH ME, MIKEY— I'M DREAMIN'.
YOU'RE NOT DREAMIN', BRO...
...YOU'RE JUST WASTIN' TIME!
BEST PATROL EVER!

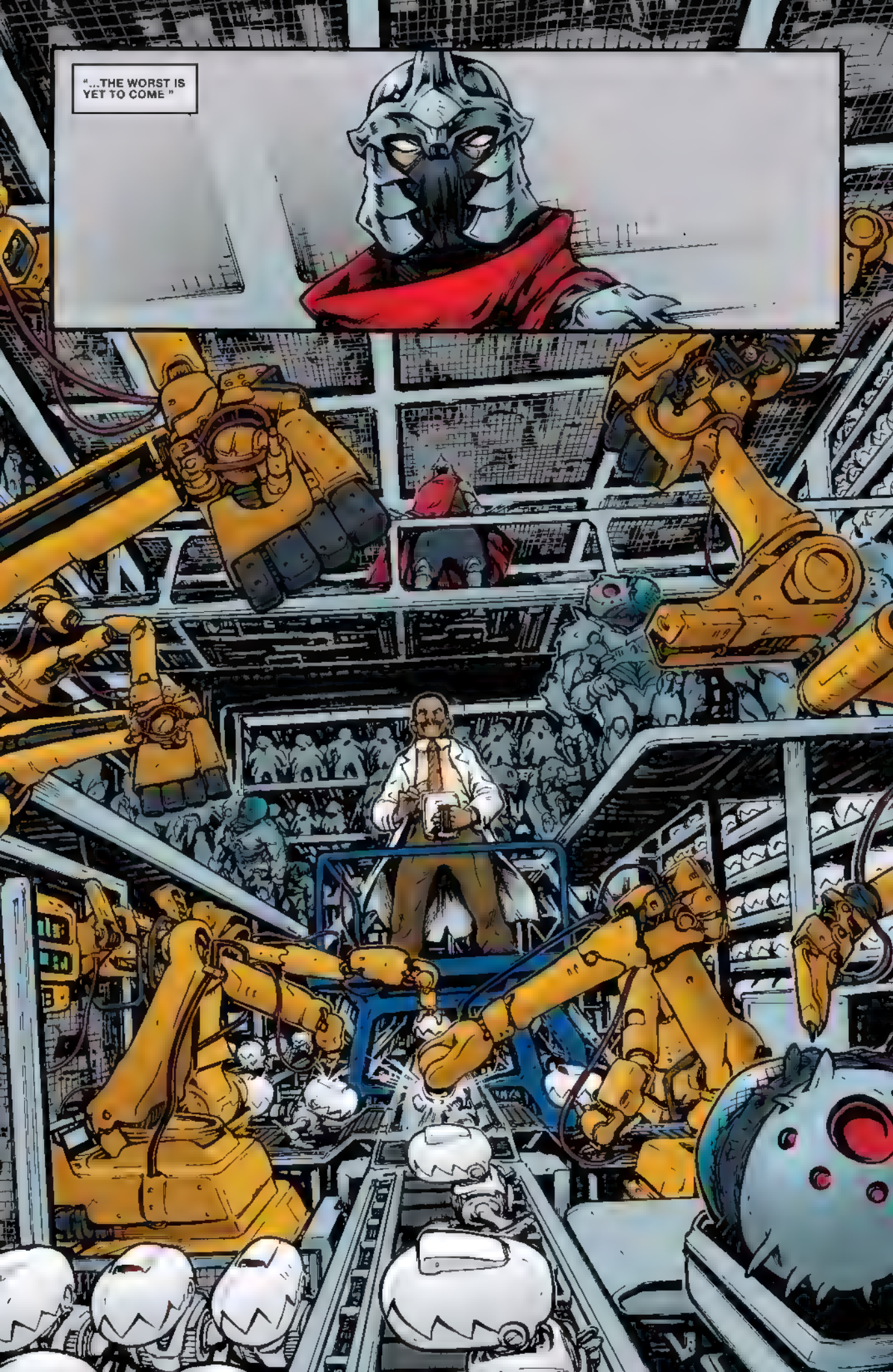
NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US, RAPH.
YEAH, BRO— YOU'RE LAGGIN'!
I WAS TOO BUSY HAVIN' A HEART ATTACK FROM SHOCK.
IT AIN'T LIKE YOU TO PUNCH FIRST LIKE THIS, LEO.
NOT THAT I'M COMPLAININ'
WELL, IF THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE TAUGHT ME ANYTHING...
...IT'S THAT SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA TAKE THINGS HEAD ON!
DON'T WORRY, LEO—WE WON'T TELL FATHER ON YOU.
I'M NOT WORRIED, MIKE.
FWAP
WHAP
AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, I THINK MASTER SPLINTER WOULD APPROVE.
GRFF!
WELL, I KNOW I DO!
SO DO I...
UH OH.

...SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF *HUNTIN'* YOU NASTY MUTANTS DOWN.
GREAT. HUN.
THOUGHT I SMELLED SOMETHIN' RANK.
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD TRICK, TURTLE...
...FOR A GREEN FREAK WITH NO NOSE.
WELL... WHAT'RE WE *WAITIN'* FOR?
HEADS UP, GUYS!
NO, TURTLE...
...HEADS **OFF!**
WHOA!

FOR CASEY, YOU DEADBEAT SCUM!
YER RIGHT!
KRAK
UFF!
THIS IS FOR CASEY—ALL OF IT! YOU MONSTERS MADE HIM HATE ME.
NOW I'M GONNA MAKE YOU HATE...
...THAT YOU WERE EVER BORN!
HUN! KARAI SENT US TO FIND YOU...
OH, NO.
...SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHY YOU SKIPPED OUT ON HER WHEN THAT RAT AND HIS CREW ATTACKED.
SHE'S A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR LOYALTY TO THE FOOT.
WAIT, BLUDGEON—WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? THE TURTLES, TOO?
THE FILTHY HUMAN WILL HAVE TO WAIT—
—IT'S TIME FOR A REPTILE FEAST.
FORGET THIS!
HEH. I LIKE YOUR SENSE OF PRIORITY, KOYA.

UH, LEO, I'M ALL FOR BREAKIN' RULES AND STUFF, BUT I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO GET OUR SKULLS BROKEN INSTEAD.
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT.
FINE BY ME!
AND BY US!
GUYS, LOOK OUT!
FWOOSH
WHAT THE—?
A WARNING SHOT, THAT'S WHAT
MOVE EVEN A MILLIMETER AND THE NEXT ONE WON'T BE.
YES! IT'S DONNIE!
GET READY, FELLAS...
.. BECAUSE WE ARE OUT OF HERE!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY.
FOR NOW. THEIR DAYS ARE NUMBERED— WE WILL AVENGE OUR MASTER YET.
UNTIL THEN...

"...LET THE COWARDS RUN."
TOO FAST! CAN'T ST—
SKADD
KRSSH
WHOA, DONNIE, ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M GOOD, LEO STILL TRYING FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THIS NEW BODY IS ALL.
IT'S A BIT COMPLICATED.
COMPLICATED? THEY'RE CALLED BRAKES, GENIUS.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU KICKIN' BUTT AGAIN, MAN.
YEAH, ROBO-BRO, THAT WAS TOTALLY AWESOME!
DON'T MENTION IT, GUYS.
I'M JUST GLAD TO BE BACK IN THE FIGHT
AND WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU.
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE... I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET MY EMOTIONS DICTATE MY TACTICS.
SO, WHAT NOW?
NOW WE GO HOME I DON'T WANT TO PUSH OUR LUCK ANYMORE.
WHATEVER. WE WOULDA WALLOPED THOSE DORKS EVENTUALLY.
NO, RAPH, LEO'S RIGHT—WE DO HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL MOVING FORWARD.
DESPITE ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, SOMETHING TELLS ME .


"...THE WORST IS YET TO COME"

ART BY VALERIO SCHITI
COLORS BY CLAUDIA SCARANIELLO

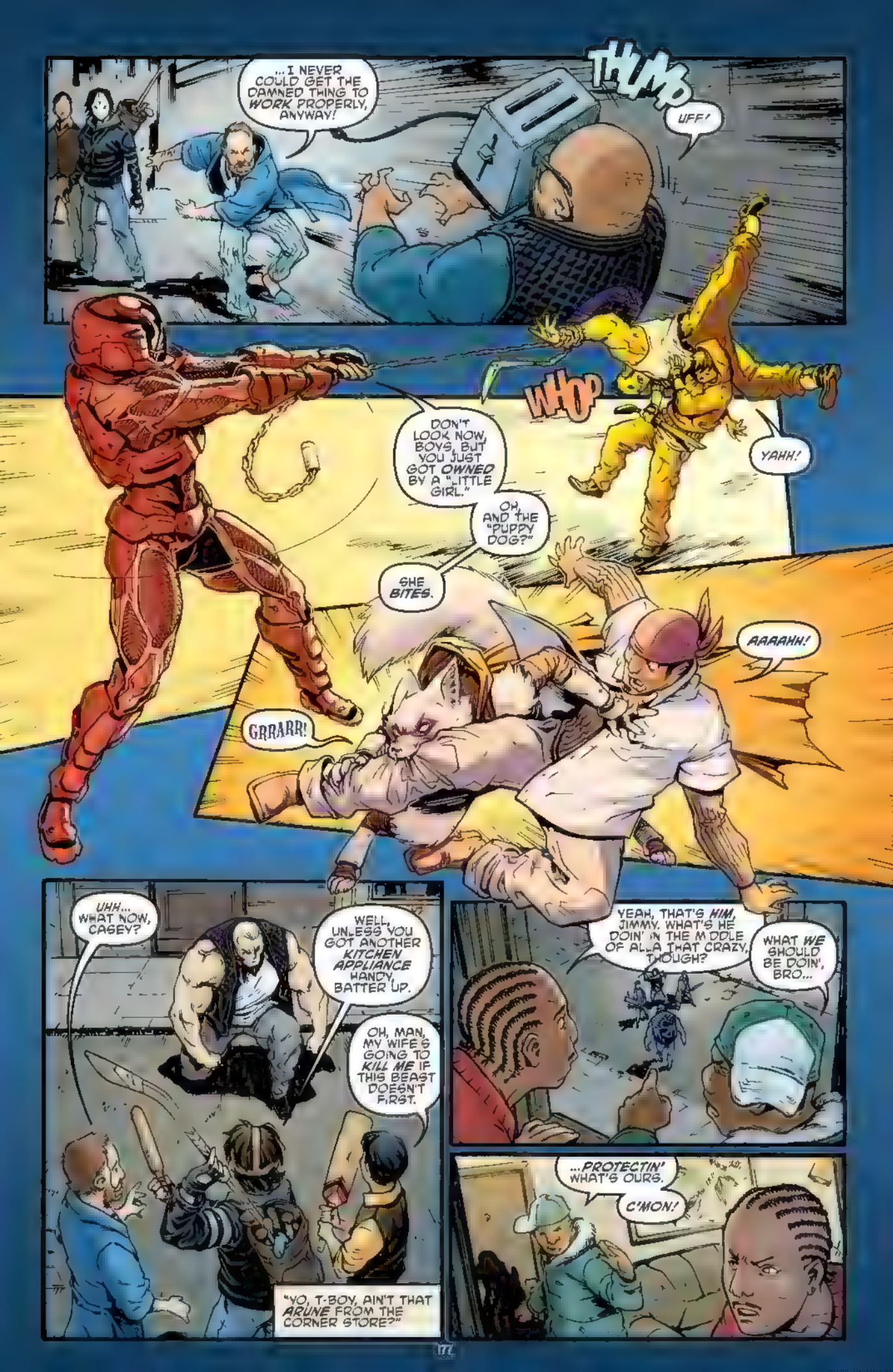
ISSUE #47

WHAT? NO WELCOMIN' COMMITTEE?!
WHADDYA THINK, LINK? TIME TO START KNOCK'N' ON SOME DOORS TO WAKE THESE LOSERS UP?
YOU SAID IT, BOSS. MAYBE KNOCK SOME HEADS, TOO.
YEAH— STARTIN' WITH THAT GUEY.
JACK DANIEL'S
WHISKEY
WHAT'S WRONG, MALO...
...DIDN'T I BREAK YOUR FACE ENOUGH ALREADY TONIGHT?*
*See TMNT #45 - B.C.

WHAT IS IT, JOHN... WHAT'S GOING ON?
CALL 9-1-1, BETH. TELL THEM...
"... TELL THEM TO SEND EVERYONE."
GO HOME, DAD—YER DRUNK AS A SKUNK.
CHECK IT OUT, BOYS. BABY JONES NEEDS A LITTLE GIRL TO STICK UP FOR HIM.
HEH. GUESS IT'S HIS GUARDIAN ANGEL, HUH? GOT HIMSELF A NEW PUPPY DOG, TOO.
WEAK. SO STINKIN' WEAK.
YEAH? WELL, I LEARNED FROM AN EXPERT, DIDN'T I?
HEY, WHAT CAN I SAY—I WAS JUST A REGULAR MOOK TRYIN' TO DO THE BEST WITH WHAT I HAD. BUT THEN MY BEST GOT BETTER.
NOW I GOT ALL KINDS OF IMPORTANT LESSONS TO TEACH YA. LIKE THE ONE I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO IN SUNDAY SCHOOL. IT'S REAL SIMPLE...
CRUNCH
HONOR YOUR FATHER.

SORRY, I ALREADY LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HONOR OVER THE LAST YEAR...
...NONE OF IT FROM YOU!
"MY GOD, THEY'RE COMPLETELY OUTNUMBERED..."
...THEY'LL NEVER SURVIVE WITHOUT HELP!
JOHN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
TO HELP!
"I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH..."
...IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT, PRIYA.
BUT... WHAT WILL YOU DO, ARUNE?
RETURN A FAVOR.

STUPID MOVE, K'D. STEPPIN' UP TO JG LIKE THAT.
STUPID? YOU MEAN LIKE LEAV'N MY LEGS FREE?
GRAH!!
OOPS. LOOKS LIKE YOU SPILLED AGAIN. NO ONE LIKES A SLOPPY DRUNK.
YER DONE, BOY. AIN'T NO ONE COM'N TO RESCUE YOU THIS TIME. I'M GONNA—
GRAK
CONK
WHO THE...?
ARLNE? MR. O'NEIL?
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOIN'?!
N-NO BIGG E. JUST HELPING A NEIGHBOR.
WITH A TOASTER?
IT'S ALL I HAD TIME TO GRAB.
BESIDES...


...I NEVER COULD GET THE DAMNED THING TO WORK PROPERLY, ANYWAY!
THUMP
UFF!
WHOP
YAHH!
DON'T LOOK NOW, BOYS, BUT YOU JUST GOT OWNED BY A "LITTLE GIRL."
OH, AND THE "PUPPY DOG?"
SHE BITES.
AAAAHH!
GRRARR!
UHH... WHAT NOW, CASEY?
WELL, UNLESS YOU GOT ANOTHER KITCHEN APPLIANCE HANDY, BATTER UP.
OH, MAN, MY WIFE'S GOING TO KILL ME IF THIS BEAST DOESN'T FIRST.
"YO, T-BOY, AIN'T THAT ARUNE FROM THE CORNER STORE?"
YEAH, THAT'S HIM, JIMMY. WHAT'S HE DOIN' IN THE MIDDLE OF ALLA THAT CRAZY, THOUGH?
WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOIN', BRO...
...PROTECTIN' WHAT'S OURS.
C'MON!

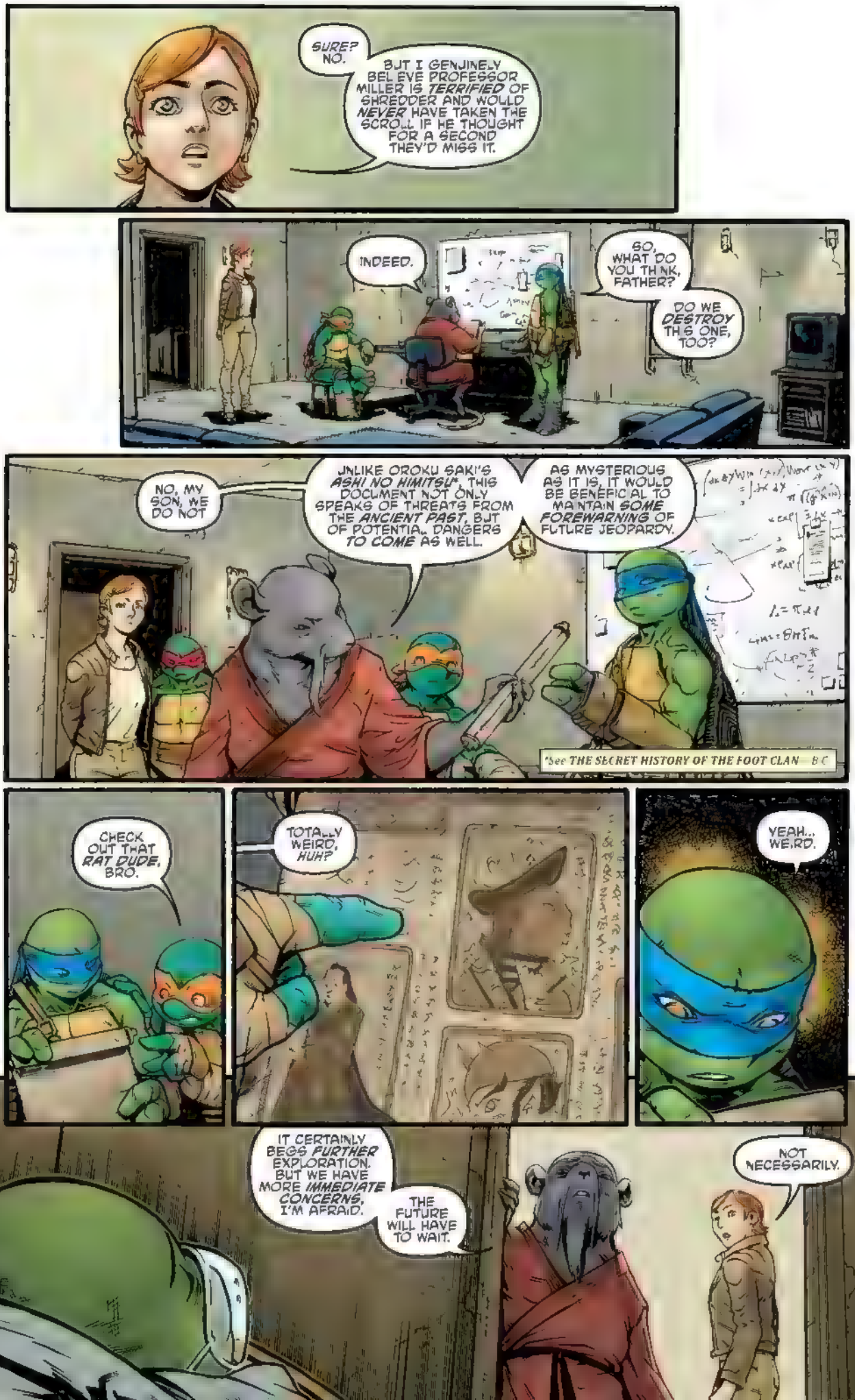
YOU MADE A MISTAKE, CASE, HOOKIN' UP W TH THESE WIMPS!
NAH, DAD. I DIDN'T.
HONESTLY, IT'S PROBABLY THE SMARTEST THING I EVER DONE.
WAK
UNF!
"CAUSE I FINALLY FIGURED OUT, THE FAMILY YER BORN WITH..."
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE BACKIN' UP OUR BOY ARUNE, THAT'S WHAT!
THE NICE MAN FROM THE STORE?
"...AIN'T NECESSARILY THE ONE THAT TURNS OUT TO BE YOUR REAL FAMILY."
WE'LL HELP, TOO!
THE KIND THAT STANDS BY YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
GET READY...
NOW!
"ALWAYS THERE TO HELP YOU EVEN WHEN THINGS'RE TOUGH.
"ALWAYS READY TO PROVE THAT SOMETIMES BLOOD'S JUST BLOOD."

GRAAHH!
YOU THINK YER THE ONLY ONE WITH A NEW FAMILY?!
LOOK AROUND ME, KID—I GOT ME ALL THE FAMILY I NEED TO BURN THIS BLOCK TO THE STINKIN' GROUND!
YEAH?
"LOOKS LIKE YER ON YOUR OWN TO ME."
FORGET THIS!
YOU OWE ME SOME NEW GROCERIES, YOU BULLY!
THAT'S RIGHT, PUNKS—RUN AWAY! THIS IS OUR 'HOOD!
WE DID IT!
HA HAHAHA HAHA!
WHAT THE HELL'S SO FUNNY?
ME AND YOU, KID—THAT'S WHAT.
WE BOTH THOUGHT WE WAS RIGHT AND IT TURNS OUT WE WAS BOTH WRONG.
THEM WIMPS HIGHTAILIN' IT OUTTA HERE? THEY AIN'T MY FAMILY. THEY'RE JUST D'ME-A-DOZEN STREET PUNKS.
REPLACIN 'EM'S EASY AS FLASHIN' AROUND WADS OF DOUGH AND PROMIS'N' MORE WHERE IT CAME FROM.

BUT THAT DON'T MAKE 'EM ANY DIFFERENT THAN THESE WIMPS. I MEAN, C'MON—ONE SECOND I SEE YOU WITH THOSE GREEN FREAKS, THE NEXT WITH THESE STUCK-UP PENCIL NECKS.
YER EXCHANGIN' FAMILY AS FAST AS I'M RECRUITIN' NEW GANG BANGERS.
DONCHA SEE, CASE? THE ONLY CONSTANT IN ALL OF THIS IS ME... AND YOU... AND THE WAY WE BOTH HANDLE ANY PROBLEM THAT GETS IN OUR WAY—EVEN IF THAT PROBLEM HAPPENS TO BE EACH OTHER.
THE JONES WAY.
W TH FISTS AND FEET.
WITH BLOOD AND BROKEN BONES.
I WAS LAUGHIN' 'CAUSE I THOUGHT I NEEDED TO TEACH YOU A LESSON TONIGHT WHEN IT TURNS OUT YOU BEEN LEARNIN' JUST FINE ALL ALONG.
YER RIGHT, KID—SOMETIME'S BLOOD'S JUST BLOOD...
...AND NO MATTER WHAT, THERE A'N'T NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE IT.
HANDS OFF THE KID, DIRTBALL!

AND DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE!
THAT'S HIM, OFFICER—THE BIG ONE! HIS GROUP STARTED ALL OF THIS.
IT'S OKAY, MA'AM, WE KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S RESPONSIBLE...
...DON'T WE, HUN?
TALK TO MY LAWYER, COP. I ALREADY SAID WHAT I NEEDED TO SAY.
YEAH? WELL, THAT IS YOUR RIGHT.
CUFF THIS SCUMBAG.
I'M DETECTIVE KARA LEWIS, FOLKS, AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, I WANNA THANK YOU.
YOU JUST HELPED US [redacted] ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST WANTED.
MOST WANTED, HUH?
NOT BY ME.
YO, DETECTIVE LEWIS! I SWEAR I JUST SAW A GIANT WHITE FOX AN—
NUH-UH. NOPE. STOP RIGHT THERE, JOHNSON.
WE GOT HUN—THAT'S ENOUGH.
ANYTHING ELSE IS MORE PAPERWORK...

"...AND I HATE PAPERWORK."
THIS IS AS INTRIGUING AND MYSTERIOUS AS YOU TOLD US, MISS O'NEIL...
...AND YOU SAY YOUR PROFESSOR BELIEVES THE FOOT HAVE NO IDEA THEY POSSESSED IT IN THEIR ARCHIVES?
IT LITERALLY HURTS TO SEE DONNIE THIS WAY, RAPH.
DON'T IT, THOUGH? WAIT 'T'LL YOU SEE THE ROBOT VERSION.
I... I STILL CAN'T PROCESS IT ALL.
MISS O'NEIL?
HM? I'M SORRY, MASTER SPLINTER— WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
HE WAS ASKING IF YOU'RE SURE THE FOOT DOESN'T KNOW THIS SCROLL EXISTS, APRIL.


SURE? NO.
BUT I GENUINELY BELIEVE PROFESSOR MILLER IS *TERRIFIED* OF SHREDDER AND WOULD *NEVER* HAVE TAKEN THE SCROLL IF HE THOUGHT FOR A SECOND THEY'D MISS IT.
INDEED.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK, FATHER?
DO WE *DESTROY* THIS ONE, TOO?
NO, MY SON, WE DO NOT
UNLIKE OROKU SAKI'S *ASHI NO HIMITSU*, THIS DOCUMENT NOT ONLY SPEAKS OF THREATS FROM THE *ANCIENT PAST*, BUT OF POTENTIAL DANGERS *TO COME* AS WELL.
AS MYSTERIOUS AS IT IS, IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO MAINTAIN *SOME FOREWARNING* OF FUTURE JEOPARDY.
*See THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE FOOT CLAN B C
CHECK OUT THAT *RAT DUDE*, BRO.
TOTALLY WEIRD, HUH?
YEAH... WEIRD.
IT CERTAINLY BEGS *FURTHER* EXPLORATION. BUT WE HAVE MORE *IMMEDIATE CONCERNS*, I'M AFRAID.
THE FUTURE WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
NOT NECESSARILY.

CASEY AND I'VE BEEN TALKING AND WE'D LIKE TO DO *MORE* TO HELP OUT.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO *KEEP* THE SCROLL SO HE AND I CAN CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION.
CASEY? WE RAN INTO HIS *OLD MAN* EARLIER AFTER WE BROUGHT DONNIE'S BODY HERE.*
*See TMNT FCBD PRELUDE TO VENGEANCE B/C
DUDE! IT SOUNDS TOTALLY *CREEPY* WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT.
MAYBE 'CAUSE IT *IS* CREEPY, MIKE.
ANYWAY... IT LOOKS LIKE HUN'S BEEN *CUT LOOSE* FROM THE FOOT. AND HE MAY BE *DRINKING* AGAIN.
YEAH. DUDE'S A TOTAL MESS.
WELL, IF HUN'S RUNNING AROUND CAUSING TROUBLE, THEN IT'S ALL THE *MORE* REASON FOR CASEY TO GO WITH ME.
GO WITH YOU? WHERE?
OUT *WEST*.
BREAK TIME'S *OVER* FOR ME...

"...TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK."
YOU'RE SAYING, THEY VANISHED?
YES. WHEN WE FOUND HUN, HE WASN'T ALONE—THE TURTLE MUTANTS WERE WITH H.M.
WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD ATTACK THEM FIRST, BUT THEY FLED.
THEY A..... ESCAPED.
ALL?
MUTANTS AND THE TRAITOR HUMAN?
TALK ABOUT MEGA FAIL.
GUESS NOT EVERYONE CAN HANDLE SPECIAL MISSIONS, HEY, B?
SILENCE, FOOLS!
THE TURTLES... THEY HAD A SECRET WEAPON, KARAI.
AN INTELLIGENT ROBOT THAT COULD SPRAY FIRE AND—
REPELLED BY A SECRET WEAPON? AGAIN?
YOUR EXCUSES ARE BECOMING AS UNINSPIRED AS YOUR FIGHTING SKILLS.
AND YET, THEY SPEAK THE TRUTH.

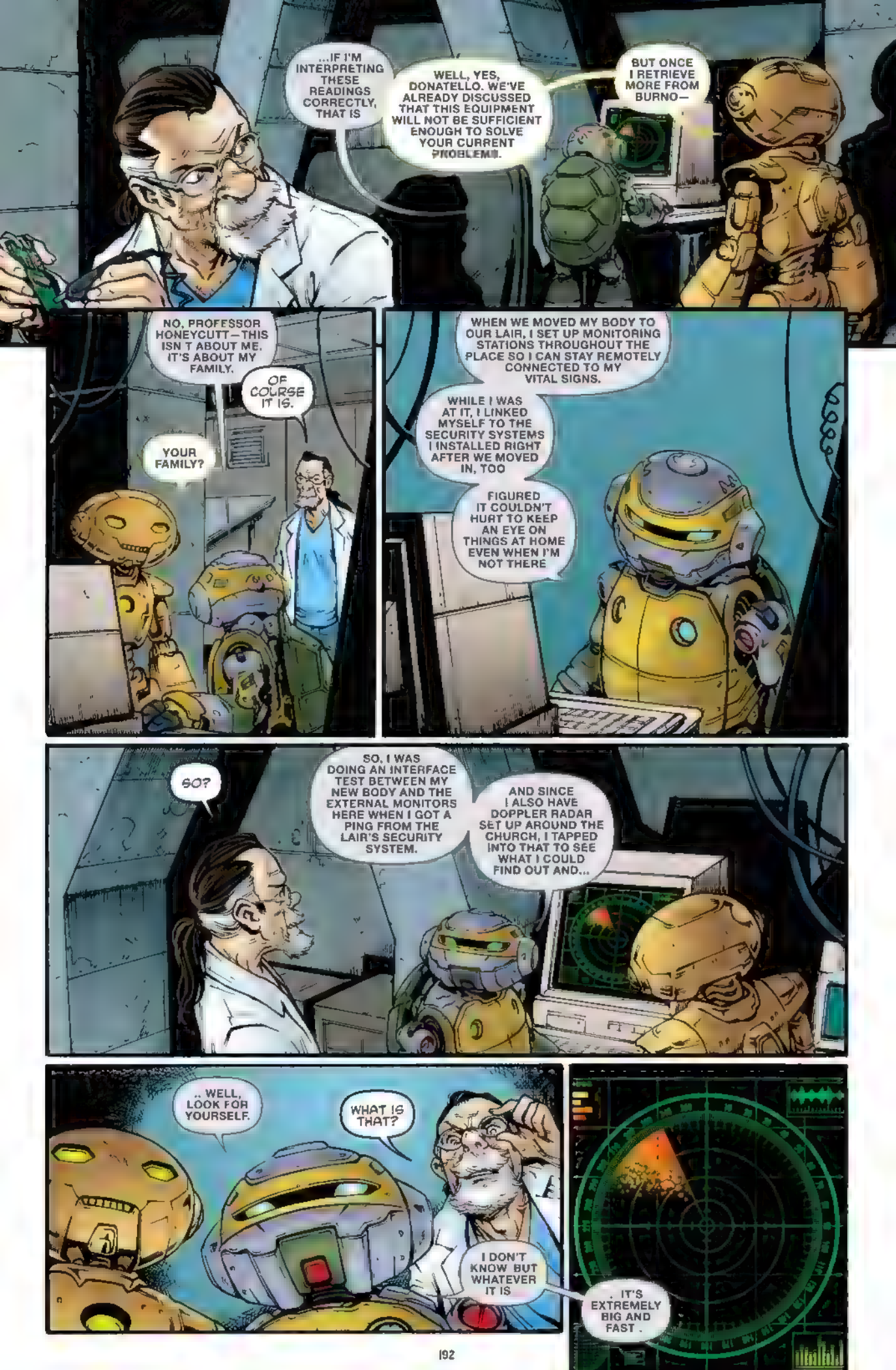
FORTUNATELY, SECRET WEAPONS ARE NOT SOLELY ACCESSIBLE TO OUR ENEMIES.
MASTER SHREDDER!
QUITE THE OFFICE SPACE YOU HAVE HERE, SHREDDER.
IT'S SO... YOU.

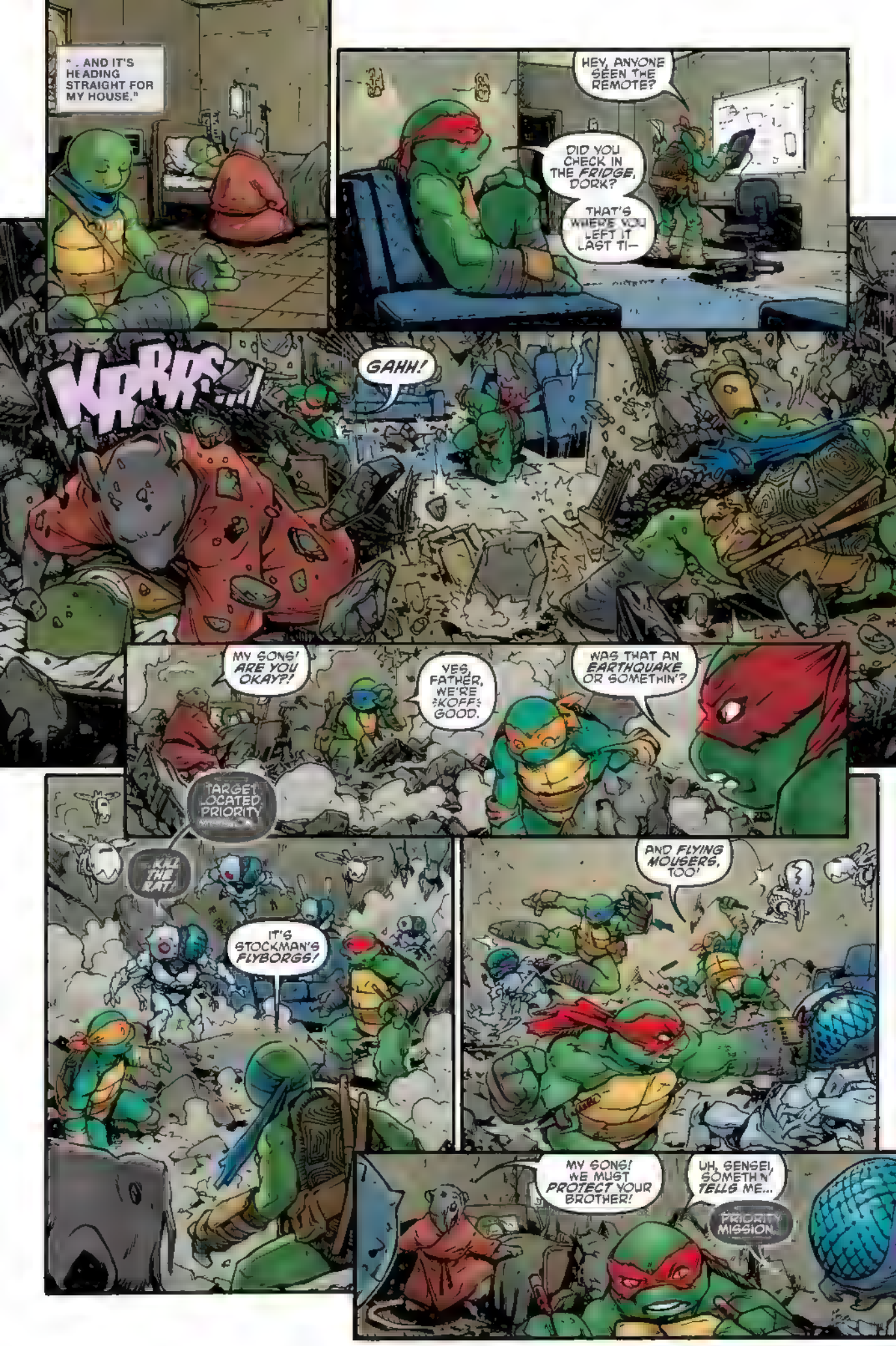
GRANDFATHER, WE... WE THOUGHT YOU DEAD.
IT WAS OUR FAULT, MASTER.
WE CRAVENLY ABANDONED YOU ON THE ISLAND. WE—
ENOUGH. I WILL HEAR NO MORE OF THIS USELESS PRATTLE.
WE HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN OF SECRET WEAPONS, AND THAT WAS PRECISELY WHAT WE FACED ON BJRNOW ISLAND.
BUT CULPABILITY FOR MY NEAR-DEATH DOES NOT FALL ON THAT WEAPON, NOR WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL IN THIS ROOM.
BETRAYAL IS AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER— A MATTER I FULLY INTEND TO RECTIFY IN SHORT ORDER WITH THE HELP OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.
NOW, HOWEVER, I WISH ONLY FOR KARAI TO REMAIN PRESENT.
AW YEAH, THE BIG BOSS IS BACK!
TOLD YA NOTHIN' COULD WASTE THE SHREDDER, PAL!
THE MASTER SAID FOR ALL TO LEAVE, SCIENTIST.
NO, KARAI... STOCKMAN STAYS.
WE HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO CONDUCT.
MPORTANT BUSINESS?

BUT, GRANDFATHER, THE CLAN VERY NEARLY *FELL* BECAUSE OF OUR TRUST IN STRANGERS.
DOCTOR STOCKMAN IS NO *STRANGER* TO US, KARAI.
AN *OUTSIDER*, THEN.
WE ARE THE FOOT– A *FAMILY*. WE NEED *NO OTHERS* BUT OURSELVES. WE MUST *PURGE* THOSE WHO DO NOT BELONG.
MUST? YOU *FORGET* YOURSELF, *CHUNIN*.
THE ONLY THING THAT *MUST* HAPPEN IS THAT WHICH I DEEM NECESSARY.
I... I AM SORRY, MASTER. I HAVE *OVERSTEPPED* MY AUTHORITY.
YOU CANNOT OVERSTEP WHAT YOU *DO NOT* POSSESS, GRANDDAUGHTER.
BUT THAT IS A DISCUSSION FOR *ANOTHER* DAY.
GET UP.
YOUR BLAME IS *MISPLACED*, KARAI. NO *OUTSIDER* HAS CAUSED THE RECENT DANGERS FACED BY OUR CLAN.
IN TRUTH, THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR CURRENT DILEMMA WAS LAID LONG AGO, FROM *WITHIN* THE VERY FAMILY YOU SEEK TO DEFEND.
AN *ANCIENT* TREACHERY.
BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER.
HAMATO YOSHI.
INDEED. AND TODAY WE *DESTROY* THE RAT IN OUR MIDST.
ARE YOU *READY* TO BEGIN, DOCTOR?
I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU'D *NEVER* ASK.

JUST A FEW QUICK ADJUSTMENTS...
BUT... WE ARE THE FOOT CLAN. WE DON'T *NEED* THIS MAN'S HELP TO RIGHT ANY WRONGS WE'VE SUFFERED. WE...
...WE CAN DO THAT FOR *OURSELVES.*
AND WE WILL. WHEN THE DOCTOR HAS COMPLETED HIS TASK, OUR FORCES WILL *FOLLOW ON* TO ENSURE THE DESTRUCTION IS COMPLETE.
BUT, GRANDFATHER, IS THIS... IS THIS *HONORABLE?*
HONORABLE, KARA.?
THIS IS *VENGEANCE.*
PERSONALIZE IT *ALL* YOU WANT, NINJA. BUT FOR ME, THIS—AND *ALL* THINGS—REMAINS STRICTLY *BUSINESS.*
AND *TODAY'S* BUSINESS HAPPENS TO BE...
...EXTERMINATION.

"THANKS FOR LOANING ME CASEY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, MOM AND DAD."
UH, DETECTIVE LEWIS...
I KNOW YOU TOLD ME TO BE QUIET, BUT-
YEAH, YEAH... I SEE IT, TOO, JOHNSON.
"DO YOU SEE THAT?"
THERE, IN THE SKY, ANGEL.
WHAT THE HELL?
IT'S JUST A LITTLE ROAD TRIP WHILE I'M ON BREAK. I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO GET OUT AND EXPLORE THE DESERT.
GET SOME FRESH AIR
IT'S FINE, KIDDO.
AFTER TONIGHT, I THINK CASEY COULD REALLY USE SOME TIME AWAY
AND WITH HIS FATHER IN POLICE CUSTODY NOW
... I THINK THINGS WILL CALM DOWN AROUND HERE
"UM. GENTLEMEN. I THINK WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM."


...IF I'M INTERPRETING THESE READINGS CORRECTLY, THAT IS
WELL, YES, DONATELLO. WE'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED THAT THIS EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO SOLVE YOUR CURRENT PROBLEMS.
BUT ONCE I RETRIEVE MORE FROM BURNO—
NO, PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT—THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME. IT'S ABOUT MY FAMILY.
OF COURSE IT IS.
YOUR FAMILY?
WHEN WE MOVED MY BODY TO OUR LAIR, I SET UP MONITORING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PLACE SO I CAN STAY REMOTELY CONNECTED TO MY VITAL SIGNS.
WHILE I WAS AT IT, I LINKED MYSELF TO THE SECURITY SYSTEMS I INSTALLED RIGHT AFTER WE MOVED IN, TOO
FIGURED IT COULDN'T HURT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS AT HOME EVEN WHEN I'M NOT THERE
SO?
SO, I WAS DOING AN INTERFACE TEST BETWEEN MY NEW BODY AND THE EXTERNAL MONITORS HERE WHEN I GOT A PING FROM THE LAIR'S SECURITY SYSTEM.
AND SINCE I ALSO HAVE DOPPLER RADAR SET UP AROUND THE CHURCH, I TAPPED INTO THAT TO SEE WHAT I COULD FIND OUT AND...
.. WELL, LOOK FOR YOURSELF.
WHAT IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW BUT WHATEVER IT IS
. IT'S EXTREMELY BIG AND FAST .


". . AND IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR MY HOUSE."
HEY, ANYONE SEEN THE REMOTE?
DID YOU CHECK IN THE FRIDGE, DORK?
THAT'S WHERE YOU LEFT IT LAST TI—
KRRRS...!
GAHH!
MY SONS! ARE YOU OKAY?!
YES, FATHER, WE'RE KOFF GOOD.
WAS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE OR SOMETHIN'?
TARGET LOCATED PRIORITY
KILL THE RAT!
IT'S STOCKMAN'S FLYBORGS!
AND FLYING MOUSERS, TOO!
MY SONS! WE MUST PROTECT YOUR BROTHER!
UH, SENSEI, SOMETHIN' TELLS ME...
PRIORITY MISSION

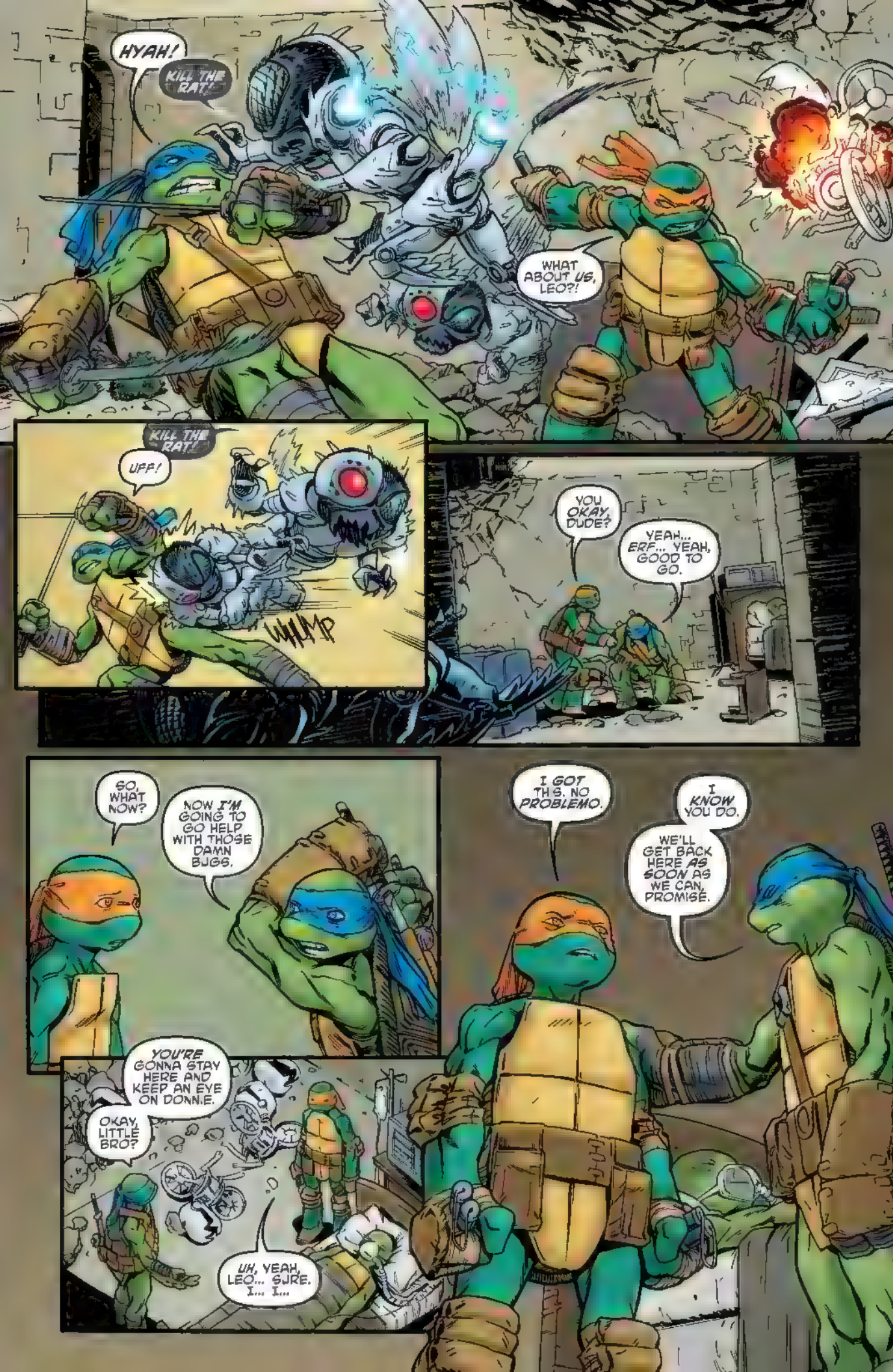
KILL THE RAT.
...IT AIN'T DON THEY'RE AFTER.
KILL THE RAT.
KILL THE RAT.
KILL THE RAT.

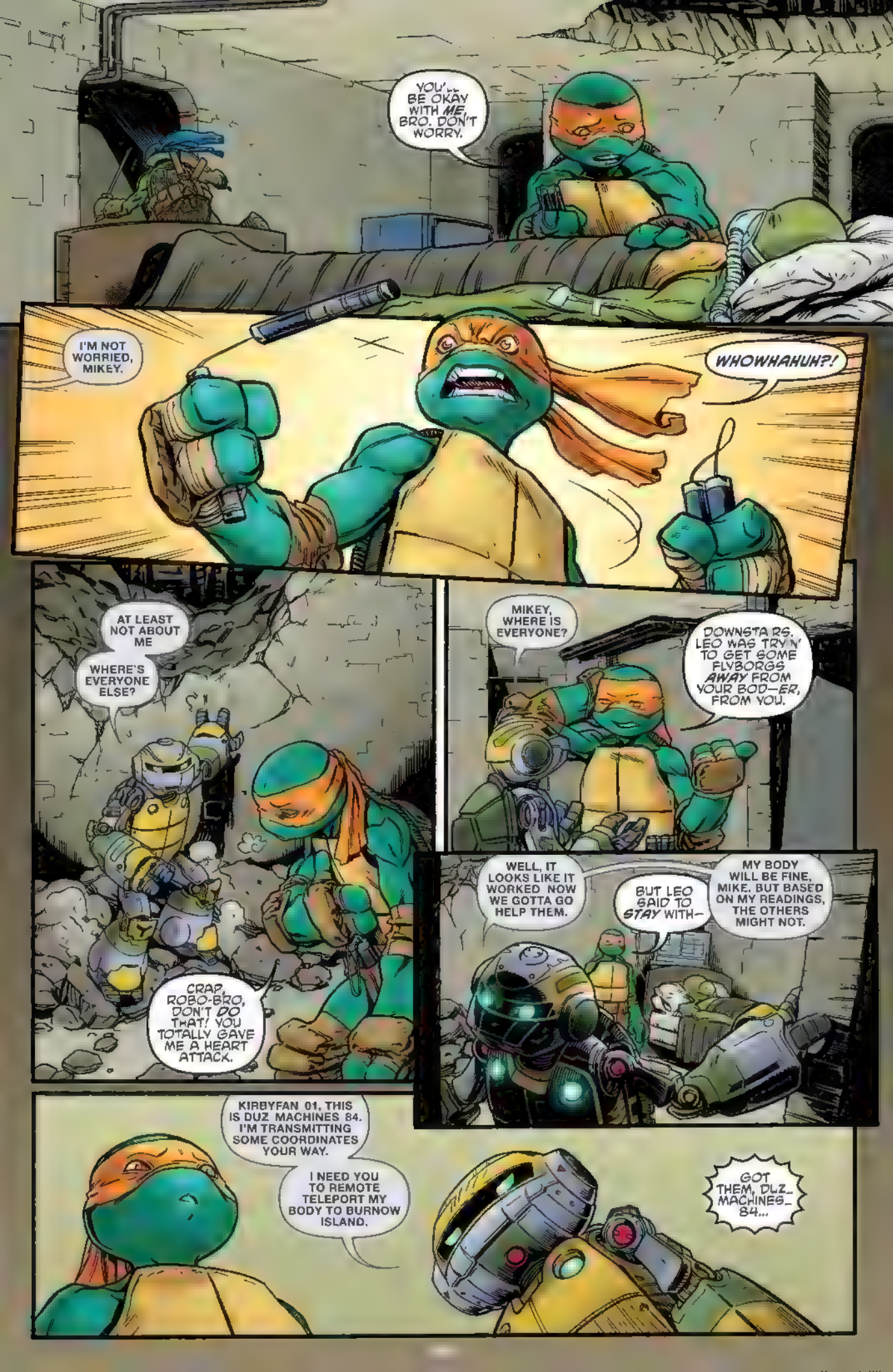
ART BY KEVIN EASTMAN
COLORS BY ROBBIE PATTISON

ISSUE #48

MY SONS...
... DEFEND YOURSELVES!
KILL THE RAT!

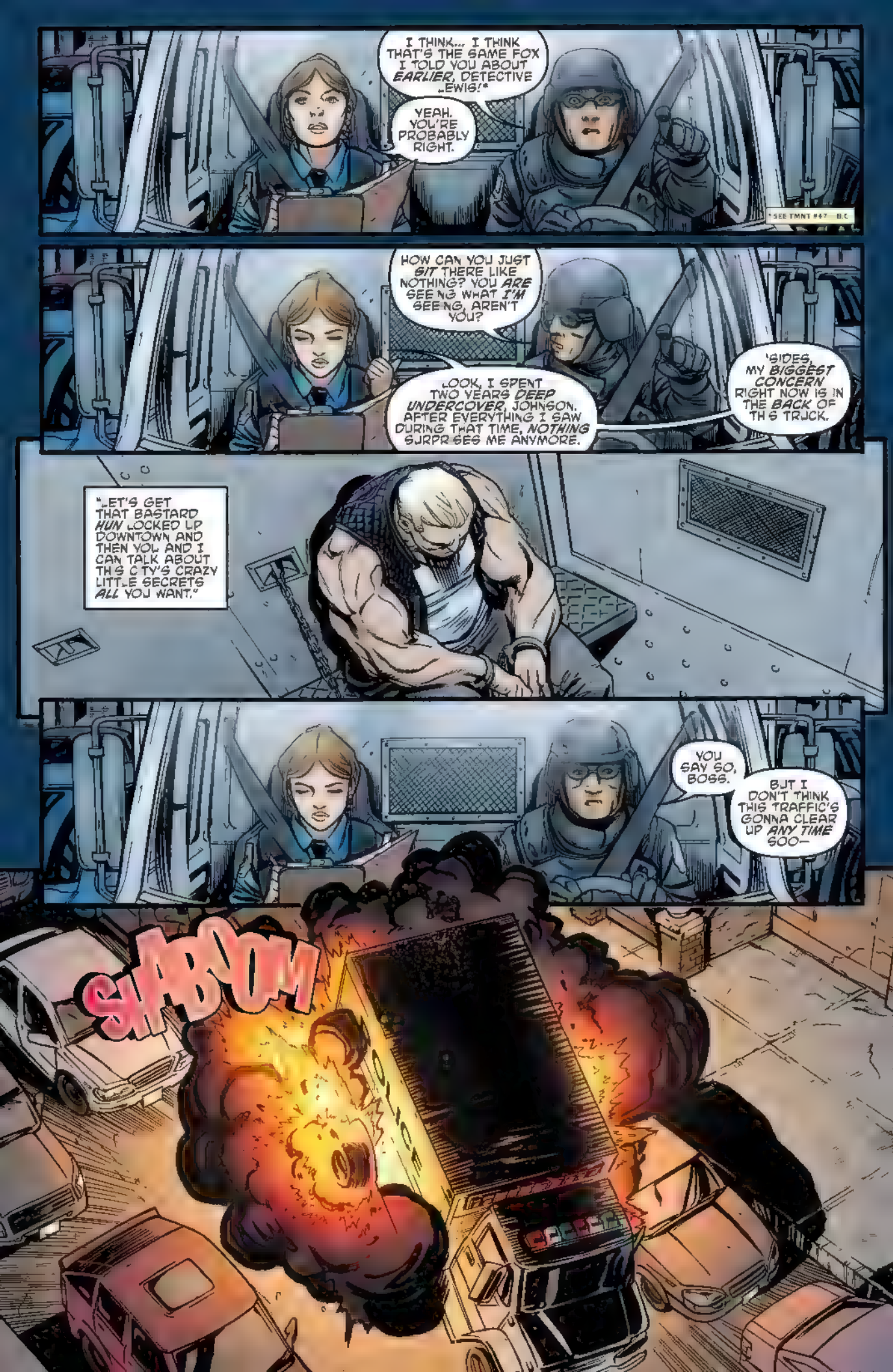
KILL THE B-
Bwok
HIYAH!
"Y'KNOW, LEO, SENSEI KEEPS TELL'N' US TO PROTECT OURSELVES.."
Thk
...WHEN I'M PRETTY SURE WE'RE THE LEAST OF THESE FLYDORKS' WORRIES.
MAYBE, BUT WE DO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT KEEPING DONNIE SAFE.
AND I THINK I KNOW HOW
FATHER, YOU NEED TO FALL BACK TO THE BASEMENT!
BUT DONATELLO IS DEFENSELESS.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU NEED TO GO WITH RAPH. NOW!
C'MON, SENSEI, IT'LL BE OKAY. I KNOW THAT LOOK ON LEO'S FACE—
—HE'S GOT A PLAN.
YES... YES, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, RAPHAEL.


HYAH!
KILL THE RAT!
WHAT ABOUT US, LEO?!
KILL THE RAT!
UFF!
WHUMP
YOU OKAY, DUDE?
YEAH... ERF... YEAH, GOOD TO GO.
SO, WHAT NOW?
NOW I'M GOING TO GO HELP WITH THOSE DAMN BUGS.
I GOT THIS. NO PROBLEMO.
I KNOW YOU DO.
WE'LL GET BACK HERE AS SOON AS WE CAN, PROMISE.
YOU'RE GONNA STAY HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON DONNIE.
OKAY, LITTLE BRO?
UH, YEAH, LEO... SURE. I... I...


YOU'LL BE OKAY WITH ME BRO. DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT WORRIED, MIKEY.
WHOWHAHUH?!
AT LEAST NOT ABOUT ME
WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
CRAP, ROBO-BRO, DON'T DO THAT! YOU TOTALLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.
MIKEY, WHERE IS EVERYONE?
DOWNSTAIRS. LEO WAS TRYIN' TO GET SOME FLYBORGS AWAY FROM YOUR BOD—ER, FROM YOU.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED NOW WE GOTTA GO HELP THEM.
BUT LEO SAID TO STAY WITH—
MY BODY WILL BE FINE, MIKE. BUT BASED ON MY READINGS, THE OTHERS MIGHT NOT.
KIRBYFAN 01, THIS IS DUZ MACHINES 84. I'M TRANSMITTING SOME COORDINATES YOUR WAY.
I NEED YOU TO REMOTE TELEPORT MY BODY TO BURNOW ISLAND.
GOT THEM, DUZ_MACHINES_84...

...JUST NEED A SECOND TO LOCK THEM IN W TH FUGITOID.
AND... BINGO!
Ent
Click
WHOA. COOL.
FUGITOID...
...THE PACKAGE IS INBOUND TO YOU.
Ewoom
AND IT HAS ARRIVED SAFELY...
. .NOW, PLEASE FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS ON PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY, MY FRIEND.
ROGER THAT, PROFESSOR.
SPEAKING OF, DO ME A SOLID, KIRBYFAN, AND FORWARD THOSE SAME COORDINATES TO NOBODY, PLEASE.
AND TELL HER WHAT?
TELL HER...

"...WE'RE GONNA NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!"
YEAH, KIRBYFAN, I *GOT* THE COORDINATES ALREADY LOCKED 'EM INTO THE SUIT'S GPS.
DID DON—ER, DUZ_MACHINES GIVE YOU *ANY MORE* INFO?
ONLY THAT HE NEEDED YOU THERE *YESTERDAY.*
WHAT'S GO'NG ON, ANGEL?
THAT WAS HAROLD. THE TURTLES FOUND THEMSE_VES SOME *NEW TROUBLE* ALREADY.
TROUBLE? WHAT KIND?
SAME AS ALWAYS— THE KIND THAT NEEDS *OUR* HELP.
LET'S ROLL.
LOOKS LIKE YOJ'RE GONNA GET TO SEE YOJR "FRIEND" *SOONER* THAN EXPECTED.
"DO YOU *SEE* THAT?!"
OLICE
UP THERE!


I THINK... I THINK THAT'S THE SAME FOX I TOLD YOU ABOUT EARLIER, DETECTIVE LEWIS!*
YEAH. YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
* SEE TMNT #47 - B.C.
HOW CAN YOU JUST SIT THERE LIKE NOTHING? YOU ARE SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING, AREN'T YOU?
LOOK, I SPENT TWO YEARS DEEP UNDERCOVER, JOHNSON. AFTER EVERYTHING I SAW DURING THAT TIME, NOTHING SURPRISES ME ANYMORE.
'SIDES, MY BIGGEST CONCERN RIGHT NOW IS IN THE BACK OF THIS TRUCK.
"LET'S GET THAT BASTARD HUN LOCKED UP DOWNTOWN AND THEN YOU AND I CAN TALK ABOUT THIS CITY'S CRAZY LITTLE SECRETS ALL YOU WANT."
YOU SAY SO, BOSS.
BUT I DON'T THINK THIS TRAFFIC'S GONNA CLEAR UP ANY TIME SOO—
KABOOM

OH... MAN. JOHNSON... YOU OKAY?
YEAH... YEAH, I THINK SO. BUT...
...WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
OH... CRAP.
GET 'IM OUTTA THERE, HERMAN. MOVE!
ROGER THAT, SIR!
SCHRIPP
WHAT THE—
STAY STILL, SIR...
SNAP
...I DON'T WANT TO WOUND YOU BY MISTAKE.

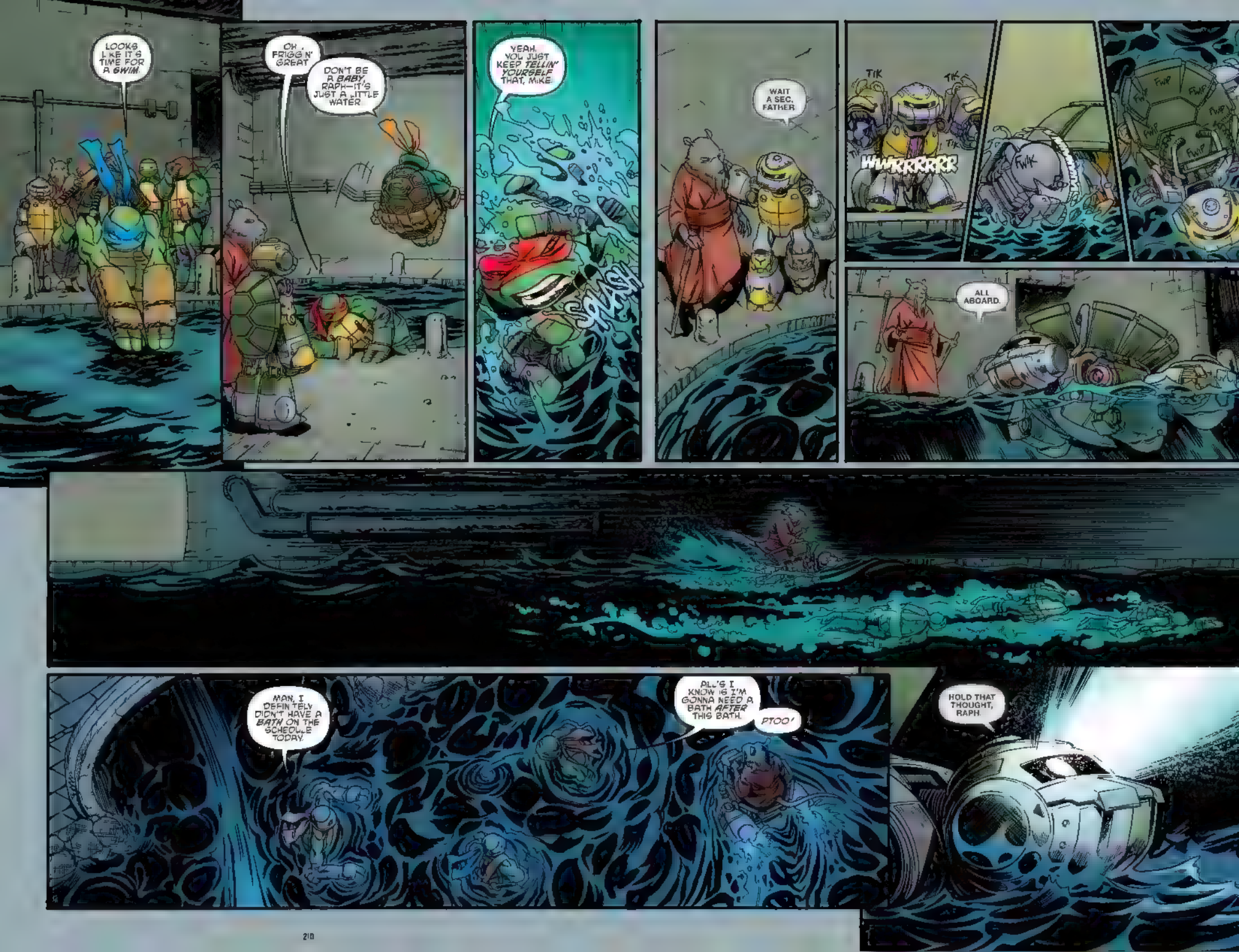
SO... WASN'T EXPECTIN' THIS.
I AIN'T TRYIN' TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH OR NOTH'N', BUT WHAT'S YOUR PLAY, CAT?
MY PLAY IS I'M BUSTIN' YOU OUT SO YOU CAN HELP BUST ME IN.
IN WHERE?
WHERE ELSE?
"IN WITH THE HUMANS."
FREEZE, FREAKS!
DROP SMOKE, HERMAN!
SIR, YES, SIR!
OH :KOFF: YOU GOTTA BE :KOFF: KIDD NG!
C'MON!
LET'S GET GONE!
I... JH...

AW, WHAT THE HELL?
URRMM
DAMMIT!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
INCOMING SMALL ARMS FIRE!
NOT FOR LONG.
SO, YOU LOSE THE REST OF YOUR CRITTER CREW, HOB?
NO, WE'LL SEE 'EM SOON ENOUGH.
YOU KNOW THAT B G TURTLE OF YOURS HATES MY GUTS, RIGHT?
HE AIN'T GONNA BE HAPPY 'BOLT THIS.
WHY DO YOU THINK I DIDN'T BRING H M?
WE'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE GET TO IT.
OKAY, I'M NOT GONNA LIE...
...THAT SURPR SED ME.
"<I DID NOT EXPECT THIS...>"

<...I MUST ADMIT.>
<WHAT ARE YOU *SPEAKING* OF, KITSUNE?>
<THIS...>
<...THE *GAIJIN* YOU HAVE *INVITED* INTO OUR MIDST.>
<AND "INVITED" IS *PRECISELY* THE STATUS HE HOLDS.>
<THE SCIENTIST IS ONLY HERE BECAUSE I AM *ALLOWING* HIM. A MEANS TO AN END.>
<WHEN THAT END COMES, SO, TOO, WILL HIS INVITATION.>
<AND WHAT *END* IS THAT, SAK?>
<HAMATO YOSHI'S END, OF COURSE.>
<AND WHAT OF YOUR *CHUNIN*?>
<KARA?>
"<WHAT OF HER?>"

<SHE DOES NOT AGREE WITH UTIL'ZING OUTSIDERS TO SERVE VENGEANCE FOR THE FOOT CLAN.>
<THE FOOT CLAN? THIS VENGEANCE IS MINE AND MINE ALONE.>
<WHEN THIS IS DONE, I WILL REMIND THAT PETULANT CHILD OF HER PROPER PLACE.>
<NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.>
<OF COURSE...>
<...BELOVED.>
TELL ME, SCIENTIST, DO YOU MAINTAIN FULL CONTROL? ARE YOUR MACHINES DOING AS I ORDERED?
THEY ARE DOING AS I DESIGNED, SHREDDER...
...AND, YES, I AM STILL IN CHARGE.
THEN TELL ME— WHAT DO YOU SEE?
I SEE...
"...A FILTHY RODENT ON THE RUN."
MY SONS, QUICKLY! TO ME!

FORM A DEFENSIVE CIRCLE!
WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE SURROUNDED!
GET READY. HERE THEY COME AGAIN.
KILL THE R-
FWOOSH
FZLAK
WHAT THE-?
GOOD PLAN GETTING EVERYONE DOWN HERE, LEO...
FWUDD
. BUT THESE TWO WERE JUST PROBING OUR DEFENSES.
"THERE'S A LOT MORE WHERE THEY CAME FROM."
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, STAT.
BUT, MY SON, YOUR BODY--
IS SAFE, FATHER. WE WON'T BE IF WE DON'T GET MOVING.


LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR A SWIM.
OH, FRIGG N' GREAT
DON'T BE A BABY, RAPH—IT'S JUST A LITTLE WATER
YEAH, YOU JUST KEEP TELLIN' YOURSELF THAT, MIKE.
SPLASH
WAIT A SEC, FATHER
TIK
TIK
TIK
WWRRRRRR
FWIK
FWIP
ALL ABOARD.
MAN, I DEFIN'TELY DIDN'T HAVE A BATH ON THE SCHEDULE TODAY.
ALL'S I KNOW IS I'M GONNA NEED A BATH AFTER THIS BATH.
PTOO'
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, RAPH.

..THEY FOUND US!
KILL THE RAT!

INCOMING!
THEY ARE ALL AROUND US!
WE MUST GET TO THE SHORE, MY SONS!
PWR
KRAK
YEAH... SURE BUT WHERE THE HELL'S THE SHORE?
WHA—
RAPH!
THEY PULLED HIM UND—
GAH!

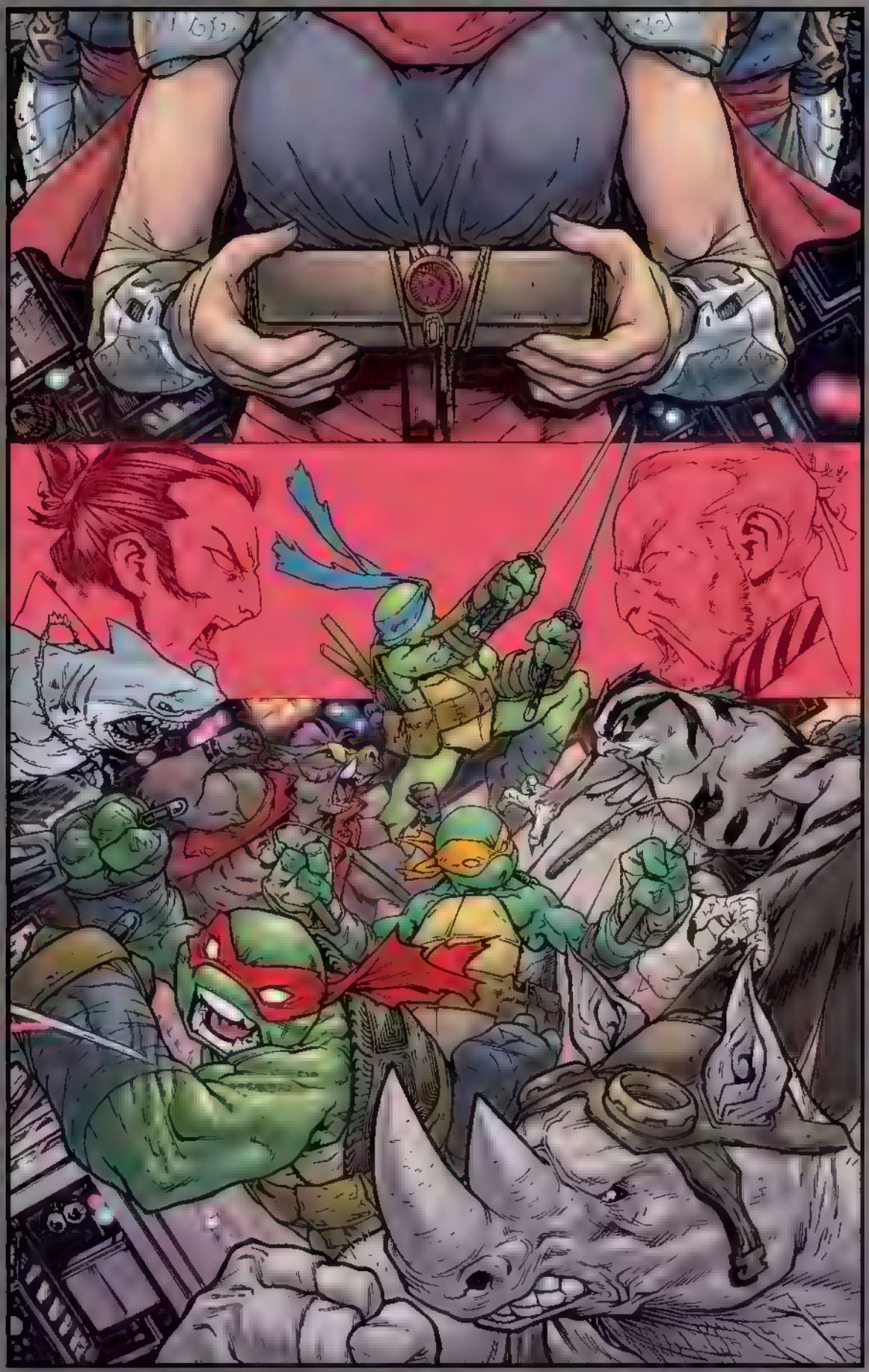
DONNIE! THEY'RE TRYING TO SPLIT US UP AND PULL US OUT OF THE BATTLE...
"IF WE'RE GONNA FLY LIKE THIS, DUDE..."
WE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE A PROPELLER
FWAK
BUT WATCH OUT FOR TURBULENCE!
" YOU NEED TO PROTECT FATHER!"
WAY AHEAD OF YOU.
SHAKT
I DO NOT LIKE ABANDONING YOUR BROTHERS LIKE THIS, DONATELLO!
ME, EITHER, FATHER, BUT LIKE YOU SAID...
" WE'RE NO GOOD TO THEM IN THE WATER "
SPLASH
FWAAH!
AND THE SOUTH KOREAN JUDGE TOTALLY SCORES THAT A PERFECT 10, FOLKS!
"YOUR BROTHERS HAVE MADE IT TO THE SHORE, DONATELLO."

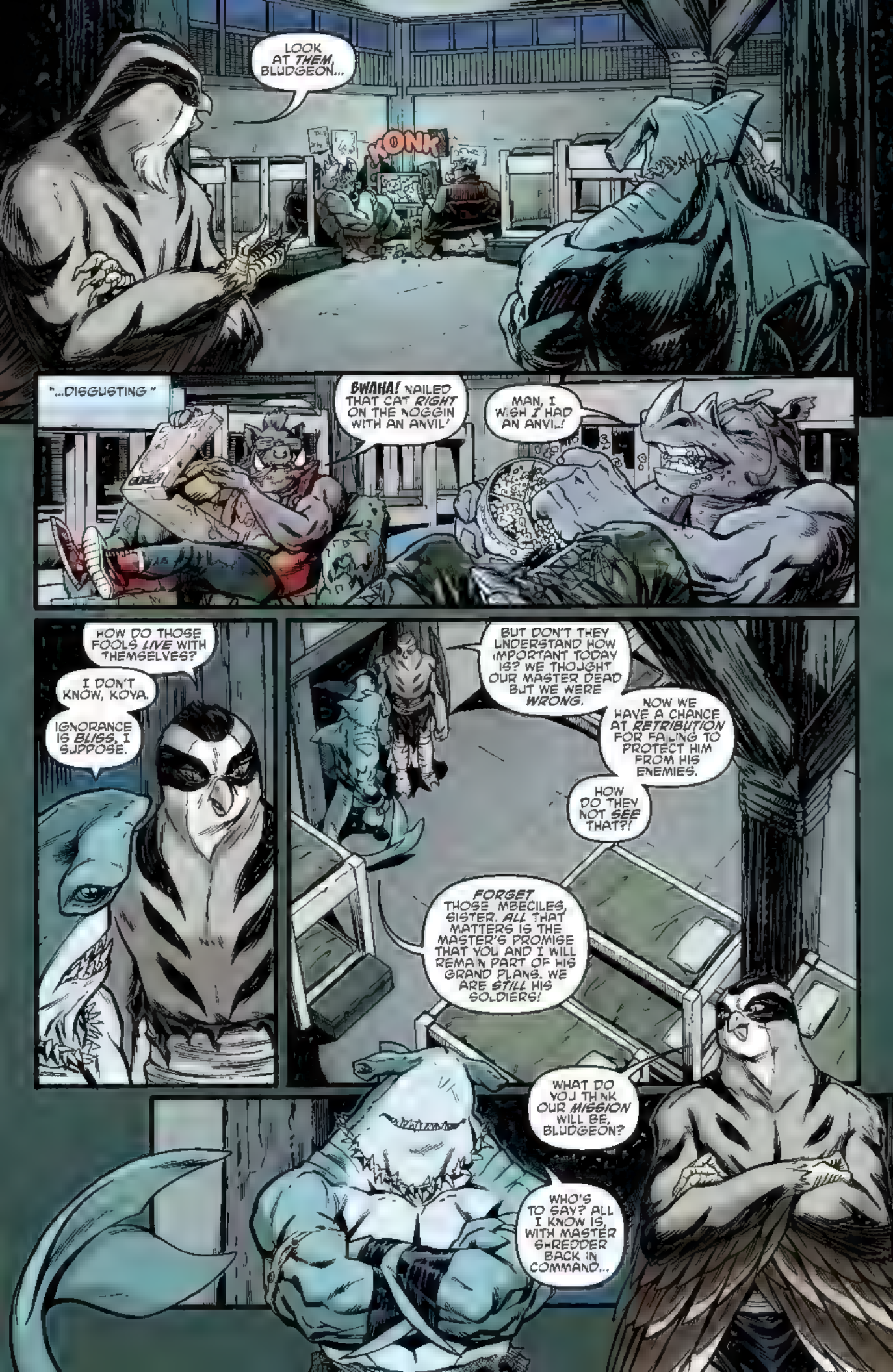
...THEY ARE SAFE.
THAT'S GOOD, FATHER—
KILL THE RAT!
—I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR US.
WISH GRANTED!
NOBODY! ALOPEX!
MAN, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU TWO!
LET'S HOPE YOU STAY THAT WAY—THERE'S A TON OF THESE THINGS!
DONNIE, IF YOU GUYS ARE UP HERE...
"...WHERE THE HECK ARE THE OTHERS?"
COME ON, GUYS—JUST A LITTLE FARTHER.
NOTH'N' LITTLE ABOUT TODAY, BRO.

DUDES! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
ABOUT TIME, BOYS.
YEAH, DID YOU THINK THESE THINGS WERE JUST GOING TO DROP DEAD ON THEIR OWN?
SPEAKING OF DEAD, I'D REALLY NOT LIKE TO TAKE THAT TRIP AGAIN ANY TIME SOON.
AS BEFORE—A DEFENSIVE CIRCLE.
DON'T LET THEM SURROUND US.
WE FIGHT TOGETHER.
WE DON'T QUIT 'TIL THEY'RE HISTORY.
THAT MAY BE A WHILE.
MAN. WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS.
UH, DONNIE, YOU THINK HAROLD HAS MORE ROBOTS LIKE YOU LYING AROUND?

'CAUSE I'M THINKIN' WE'RE ALL GONNA NEED ONE OF OUR OWN SOON.

Art by KEVIN EASTMAN
Colors by RONNA PATTISON



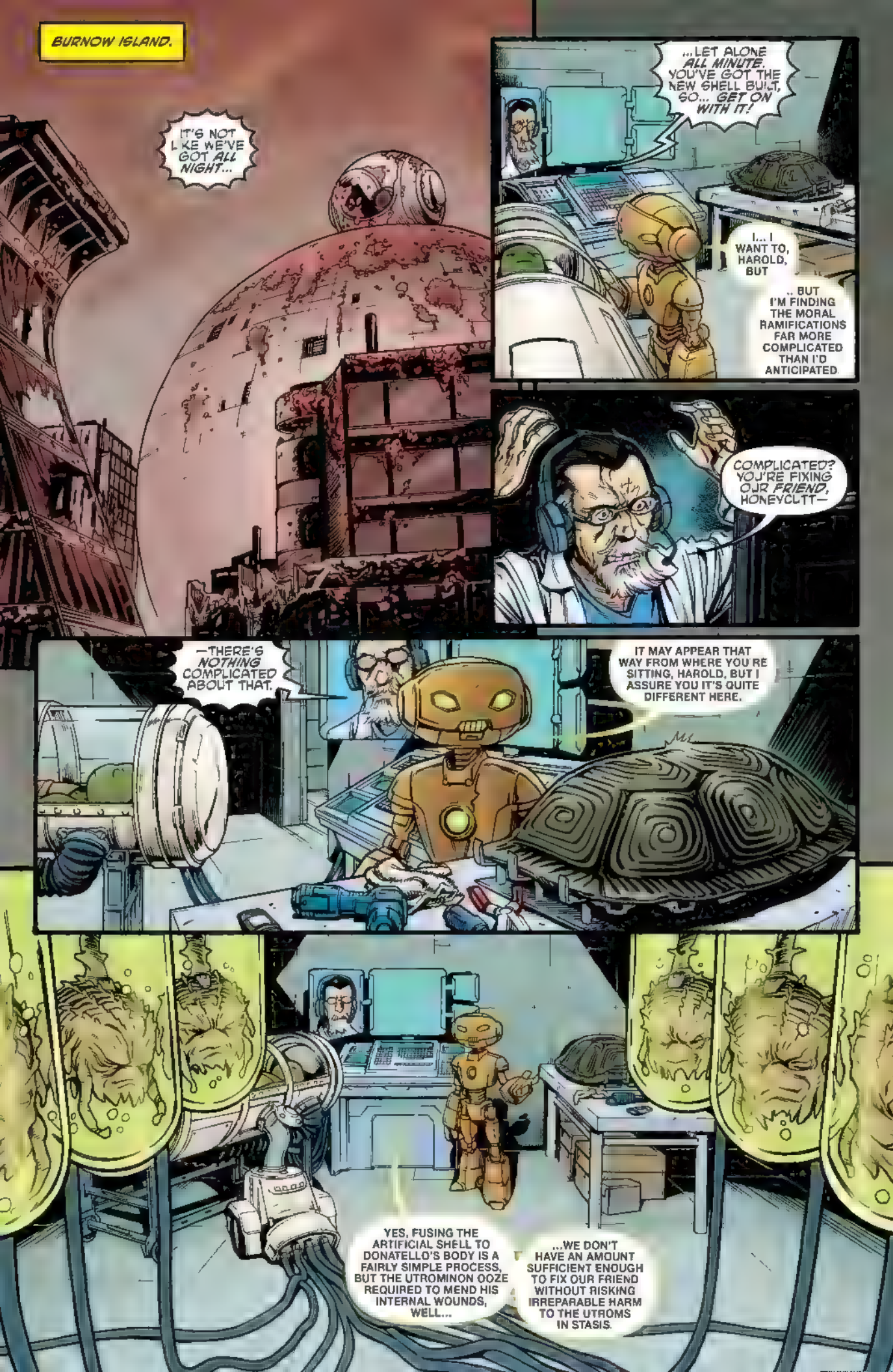

LOOK AT THEM, BLUDGEON...
KONK
"...DISGUSTING"
BWAHA! NAILED THAT CAT RIGHT ON THE NOGGIN WITH AN ANVIL!
MAN, I WISH I HAD AN ANVIL!
HOW DO THOSE FOOLS LIVE WITH THEMSELVES?
I DON'T KNOW, KOYA.
IGNORANCE IS BLISS, I SUPPOSE.
BUT DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT TODAY IS? WE THOUGHT OUR MASTER DEAD BUT WE WERE WRONG.
NOW WE HAVE A CHANCE AT RETRIBUTION FOR FAILING TO PROTECT HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES.
HOW DO THEY NOT SEE THAT?!
FORGET THOSE IMBECILES, SISTER. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE MASTER'S PROMISE THAT YOU AND I WILL REMAIN PART OF HIS GRAND PLANS. WE ARE STILL HIS SOLDIERS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OUR MISSION WILL BE, BLUDGEON?
WHO'S TO SAY? ALL I KNOW IS, WITH MASTER SHREDDER BACK IN COMMAND...

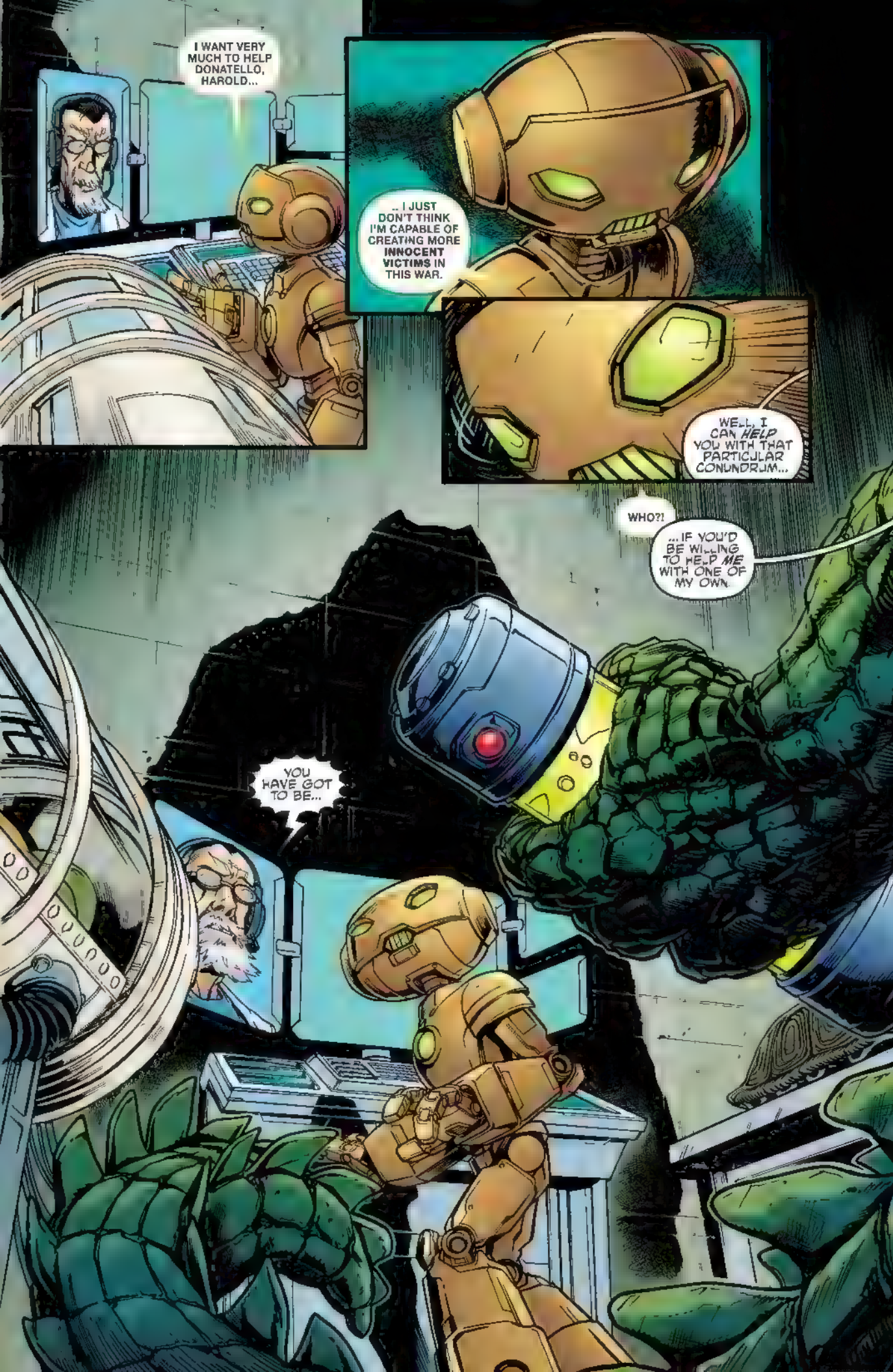
"...IT WILL BE GLORIOUS."
SO, STOCKMAN... HOW GOES THE SLAUGHTER?
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO PLAN, SHREDDER, JUST AS I GUARANTEED.
I CERTAINLY DIDN'T NEED ANY ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR LACKEYS.
MY... LACKEYS?
THE BLASTED NINJAS YOU DECIDED TO ORDER INTO THE FIGHT WITHOUT CONSULTING ME!
I GAVE NO SUCH ORDER. WHO WOULD—
KARAI!

"WHERE IS THAT DAMNED GIRL?!"
OKAAAYYY...
...NOW I'M TOTALLY CONFUSED, GUYS.
IT IS SIMPLE, TURTLE...

...YOU DO NOT DESERVE DEATH BY THESE MACHINES. NOT IN THE NAME OF THE FOOT CLAN.
OROKU KARAI—WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS AND I WILL EXPLAIN.
YEAH. RIGHT. YOU MUST THINK WE'RE PRETTY STUPID.
WILL YOU HEAR ME FIRST, HAMATO YOSHI?
YES, I WILL HEAR YOU. LOWER YOUR WEAPONS, MY CHILDREN.
BUT--
PLEASE, RAPHAEL, DO AS I SAY.
I AM LISTENING, OROKU KARAI.

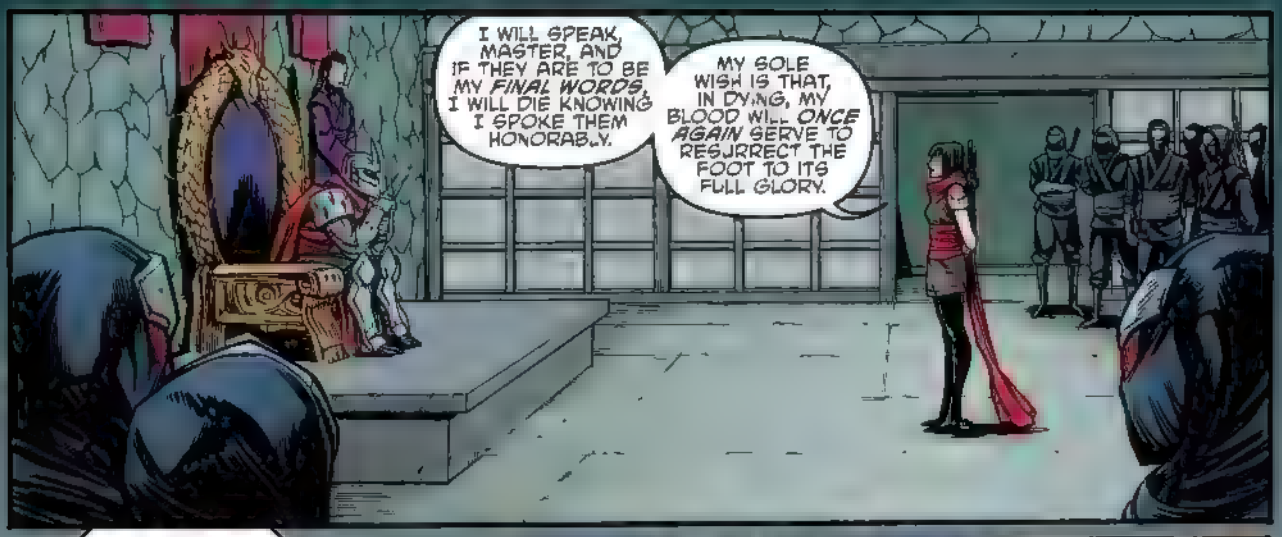
UNDERSTAND, WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE TODAY WAS NOT OUT OF MERCY OR COMPASSION.
MY MASTER WISHES YOU DESTROYED, AND AS HIS CHUNIN, I WILL SEE HIS ORDERS THROUGH TO COMPLETION.
BUT I COULD NOT STAND BY AND ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN SO...
...DISHONORABLY.
SO NOW WE CAN FINISH THIS IN THE PROPER MANNER—AS TRUE WARRIORS.
HM. INDEED.
BUT FIRST I WOULD ASK THAT YOU HEAR ME.
YOU SPEAK OF HONOR AND YET YOU ARE PREPARED TO ANNIHILATE A SMALL FEW WITH A GREAT MANY.
WITH SUCH UNEVEN NUMBERS, WHAT YOU CALL THE WARRIOR'S WAY WOULD BE AS UNJUST AS ALLOWING THE MACHINES TO CONTINUE THEIR ATTACK.
BUT IF IT IS TRULY HONOR THAT YOU SEEK, THERE IS ANOTHER WAY, OROKU KARAI—YOU KNOW THIS. A JUST AND HONORABLE WAY... STEEL AGAINST STEEL.
THE FOOT WAY.
FURTHERMORE, IF IT'S RETRIBUTION OROKU SAKI DESIRES, THEN, AS HIS CHUNIN...
...IT IS YOUR DUTY TO ENSURE HE DOES SO IN A WAY WORTHY OF ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF MASTER.
"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"


BURNOW ISLAND.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT ALL NIGHT...
...LET ALONE ALL MINUTE. YOU'VE GOT THE NEW SHELL BUILT, SO... GET ON WITH IT!
I... I WANT TO, HAROLD, BUT
.. BUT I'M FINDING THE MORAL RAMIFICATIONS FAR MORE COMPLICATED THAN I'D ANTICIPATED.
COMPLICATED? YOU'RE FIXING OUR FRIEND, HONEYCUTT—
—THERE'S NOTHING COMPLICATED ABOUT THAT.
IT MAY APPEAR THAT WAY FROM WHERE YOU'RE SITTING, HAROLD, BUT I ASSURE YOU IT'S QUITE DIFFERENT HERE.
YES, FUSING THE ARTIFICIAL SHELL TO DONATELLO'S BODY IS A FAIRLY SIMPLE PROCESS, BUT THE UTROMINON OOZE REQUIRED TO MEND HIS INTERNAL WOUNDS, WELL...
...WE DON'T HAVE AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO FIX OUR FRIEND WITHOUT RISKING IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE UTROMS IN STASIS.

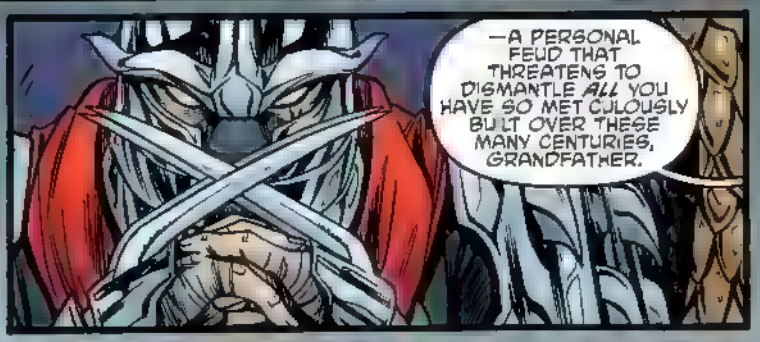

I WANT VERY MUCH TO HELP DONATELLO, HAROLD...
.. I JUST DON'T THINK I'M CAPABLE OF CREATING MORE INNOCENT VICTIMS IN THIS WAR.
WELL, I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT PARTICULAR CONUNDRUM...
WHO?!
...IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO HELP ME WITH ONE OF MY OWN.
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE...

...KIDDING ME!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF A JOKE, NINJA?!
LET ME DO ALL THE HARD WORK CORRALLING THOSE DAMNED MUTANTS JUST SO YOUR PAJAMA-WEARING PSYCHOS CAN TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR FINISHING THE JOB?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, STOCKMAN?
YOUR NINJAS, YOU SPIKE-HEADED FOOL! THEY DESTROYED MY ROBOTS BEFORE I COULD EXTERMINATE THE RAT AND HIS BROOD!
HEAR ME NOW, STOCKMAN. WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED, YOU WOULD DO WELL TO CONTROL YOUR TONGUE.
YES, GAIJIN...
FOOSH
GAHH!
ZZAXX
...YOU WOULD.

WHA... MY EQUIPMENT!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, G RL?
ANSWER ME!
I HAVE E_IM NATED A DIRE THREAT TO OUR CLAN, MASTER SHREDDER.
WAIT, SAKI!
IF YOU STRIKE DOWN THIS CHILD NOW, DO YOU ACT ANY LESS RASHLY THAN SHE?
KITSUNE, I—
YOU ARE THE MASTER OF THE FOOT CLAN.
WI_L YOU NOT HEAR YOUR CHUNIN'S TEST MONY BEFORE YOU DE_IVER YOUR SENTENCE?
VERY WEL_—STAND AND BE HEARD.

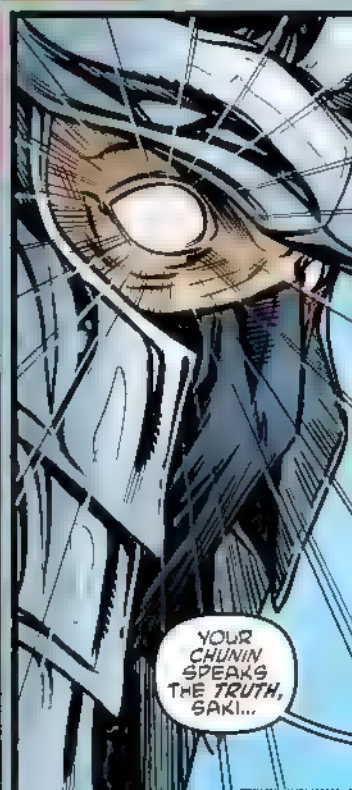

I WILL SPEAK, MASTER, AND IF THEY ARE TO BE MY *FINAL WORDS*, I WILL DIE KNOWING I SPOKE THEM HONORABLY.
MY SOLE WISH IS THAT, IN DYING, MY BLOOD WILL *ONCE AGAIN* SERVE TO RESURRECT THE FOOT TO ITS FULL GLORY.

A GLORY WROUGHT BY *YOU*, GRANDFATHER, IN AN AGE THAT HAS PASSED INTO SHADOW.
AND NOW, IN THIS NEW AGE, WHEN OUR PRECIOUS CLAN SHOULD SHINE BRIGHTER THAN IT *EVER* HAS BEFORE, IT IS INSTEAD IN DANGER OF *FALLING BACK* INTO DARK OBLIVION AS OUR CONTROL UNRAVELS AND OUR EMPIRE SLIPS AWAY.
OUR ARMY WAS NEARLY *DECIMATED* BY THE ILL-FATED ATTACK ON BURNOW ISLAND, AND THE OUTSIDERS—THE COWARDLY *GAIJIN*—WE HAVE ALLOWED TO POISON OUR RANKS SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO *ABANDON* THEIR SO-CALLED LOYALTIES TO OUR CLAN.
AND YET WE *CONTINUE* TO ALLY OURSELVES WITH MEN OF NO MORALS AND NO TRADITIONS LIKE THE SCIENTIST. AND FOR *WHAT* REASON?
ALL TO SETTLE AN *ANCIENT* DISPUTE—


—A PERSONAL FEUD THAT THREATENS TO DISMANTLE *ALL* YOU HAVE SO METICULOUSLY BUILT OVER THESE MANY CENTURIES, GRANDFATHER.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD POSSESS SUCH A *BURNING DESIRE* FOR FINAL RETRIBUTION.
BUT WHAT WOULD *TRULY* BE GAINED IF WE LOSE OUR *COLLECTIVE HONOR* IN THE PROCESS?

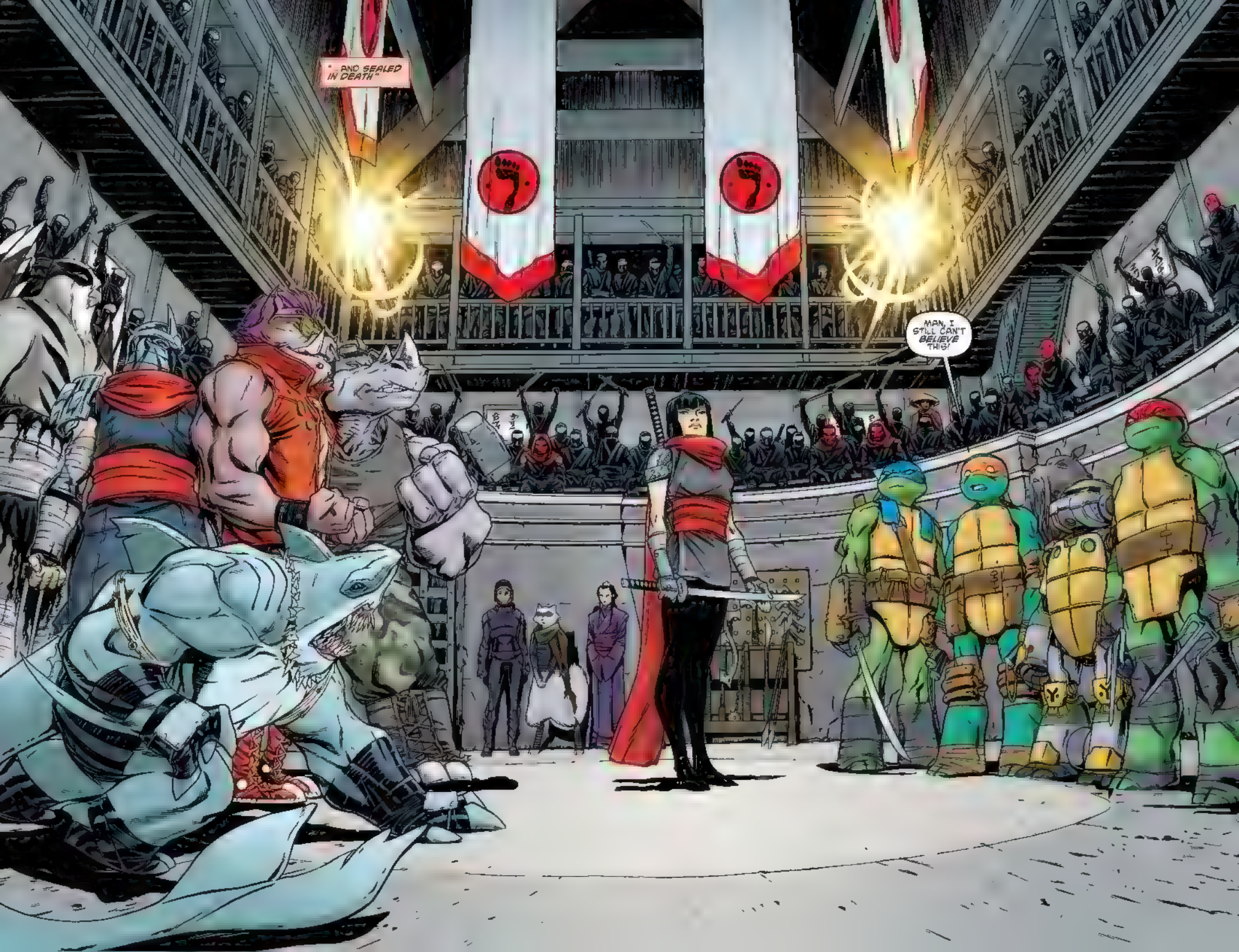
THEREFORE, IT IS MY SWORN DUTY AS FOOT CLAN *CHUNIN* TO HELP MY MASTER SEE THE *TRUE PATH* FORWARD... NO MATTER THE COST.
THERE IS A *BETTER WAY*, MASTER.


YOUR *CHUNIN* SPEAKS THE *TRUTH*, SAKI...

...IT IS FAR PAST TIME WE RESOLVE THIS WAR BETWEEN US.
I, HAMATO YOSHI, FORMALLY CHALLENGE YOJ, OROKJ SAKI, TO THE GAUNTLET.
ABSURD.
I WILL NOT SULLY MYSELF WITH SJCH NONSENSE.
FOOT! SLAUGHTER THEM A—
WAIT!
MY BELOVED... WAIT.

THERE IS WISDOM IN THESE WORDS AND OPPORTUNITY.
THE GAUNTLET IS ANCIENT AND SACRED. IT IS NOT A PATH TO BE UNDERTAKEN LIGHTLY.
BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW IT, YOU WILL PROVE THAT YOUR RULE IS ABSOLUTE AND ABOVE REPROACH. THE TIME FOR PLOTS IS OVER. THE TIME FOR COMBAT IS NOW.
BECOME THE GREAT RULER YOU WERE ALWAYS DESTINED TO BE. ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.
AFTER ALL, WHAT DOES THE GREAT DRAGON WARRIOR HAVE TO FEAR? A DECREPIT RAT AND HIS REPTILIAN CHILDREN?
VERY WELL, HAMATO YOSHI... LET YOUR SECOND DEATH AT LONG LAST SEAL YOUR PLACE AS TRAITOR TO THE FOOT CLAN.
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.
YES, WELL, DON'T MIND ME...
...I'LL JUST SEE MYSELF OUT.
IDIOTS.
"THEY'RE GONNA GET KILLED!"

WE CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND DOIN' NOTHIN'.
NO, ANGEL, THEY'LL KILL US ALL IF WE INTERFERE.
ALOPEX SPEAKS THE TRUTH...
...THE RITUAL DEMANDS STRICT ADHERENCE TO ITS CONVENTIONS.
RITUAL?
YES.
"IT BEGINS WITH TWO WARRIOR FAMILIES LOCKED IN IRRECONCILABLE CONFLICT...
"...LEAVING A SACRED TRIAL BY COMBAT AS THE ONLY HONORABLE RESOLUTION.
"THE RITE COMMENCES WITH THE SUBORDINATES—STUDENTS AND SOLDIERS SPECIALLY CHOSEN BY THE R MASTER.
"FOUR TO A SIDE, THEY WILL BATTLE IN THE R MASTER'S NAME, CEASING ONLY AFTER ALL WARRIORS FROM ONE GROUP HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.
"THE REMAINING VICTORS WILL THEN HAVE EARNED THE HONOR TO STAND AT THE R MASTER'S SIDE.
"JOINING HIM IN BATTLE AGAINST HIS ADVERSARY—A DECISIVE FINAL ENCOUNTER THAT WILL SETTLE THEIR FAMILY DISPUTE FOR ALL TIME."
A BINDING COVENANT SIGNED IN BLOOD...


"... AND SEALED IN DEATH"
MAN, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

THE OBJECT OF THIS THING IS TO ACTUALLY KILL EACH OTHER?!
NO, MY SON. ONLY SAKI OR I MUST DIE TODAY.
FATHER, WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU AGREE TO THIS?
WE HAVE SPOKEN OF THIS BEFORE, MY SON. SAKI WILL NEVER CEASE IN HIS QUEST TO SEE OUR FAMILY ANNIHILATED. HE WILL HUNT US TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH IF NEED BE.*
TODAY THE INEVITABLE HAS BECOME REALITY AND WE MUST ALL MAKE DIFFICULT CHOICES.
BUT... I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT. KILL SOMEONE, I MEAN. EVEN SHREDDER.
THEN UNDERSTAND, YOU WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE UNTIL EITHER HE... OR I... NO LONGER EXISTS.
PLEASE KNOW, I DO NOT WANT TO DIE, MICHELANGELO. BUT MORE THAN THAT, I DO NOT WANT MY CHILDREN TO LIVE IN CONSTANT DANGER.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THE GAUNTLET WILL REMOVE SHREDDER'S DARK SHADOW FROM YOUR LIVES.
FATHER...
"...IT'S STARTING."
CLAN HAMATO! YOU HAVE ISSUED THE CHALLENGE TO OUR MASTER. YOU STAND AS WILLING PARTICIPANTS IN THIS ANCIENT RITE.
CLAN FOOT! ARE YOU PREPARED TO PROVE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF YOUR CAUSE IN MORTAL COMBAT?
YES.
VERY WELL...
...LET THE GAUNTLET COMMENCE!

STAND PROUD, CHOSEN ONES.
TODAY WE FIGHT FOR OUR MASTER'S HONOR.
NO, KARAI... YOU WILL NOT.
YOU WILL WATCH THE OTHERS BATTLE IN MY NAME AS YOU AWAIT YOUR OWN PUNISHMENT.
BUT... GRANDFATHER...
DO NOT THINK BECAUSE I HAVE AGREED TO THIS SPECTACLE THAT I HAVE FORGIVEN YOUR INSUBORDINATION, GIRL. I WILL DEAL WITH YOSHI...
"... THEN I WILL DEAL WITH YOU."
OH, MAN.
MY SON, I SENSE DISCORD IN THEIR RANKS. THEY ARE NOT A COHESIVE UNIT LIKE YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS.
YES, THEY ARE MUCH BIGGER, MUCH STRONGER—
—BUT YOU HAVE TRAINING, DISCIPLINE, INTELLIGENCE... FRATERNITY. YOU MUST USE THESE ASSETS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE AT ALL TIMES IN THE FIGHT TO COME.
YES, SENSEI.
SPEAKIN' OF FIGHT'N', ENOUGH OF THIS BOWIN' AND TALKIN' CRAP.
IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS...

...LET'S DO IT!
WHAT'S WRONG, TURTLE?
IN A HURRY TO GET YOUR SHELL SMASHED, TOO?
YEAH, I'M IN A HURRY, DIPWAD.
FOR SOME SERIOUS PAYBACK!
WHOP
WHAM
'CAUSE YOU SURE DO TALK A LOT.
SHNK
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN HIT ME WITH YOUR COWARDLY LASERS, PITIFUL MACHINE?
YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE SOME PARROT IN YOU, KOYA?

ALLEY OOP!
MIKEY, A LITTLE HELP HERE?
GRAHH!
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK INTO THE GAUNTLET!
CHOKK
THANKS, LITTLE BRO.
CHECK IT OUT— SHARK TOOTH. COOL.
„EONARDO, QUICKLY!
PRESS YOUR ATTACK!
"BEFORE YOUR ENEMY RECOVERS'"
YOU DARE MOCK ME, ROBOT?
WHOA!
I THINK NOT!
RAPH! LOOK OU—

WHAM
EXCE-LENT, KOYA.
HYAH!
OH, WAIT— I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS TICKLE TIME.
TICKLE, TICKLE!
KRAK
LEO!
FWAPP

BLASTED TURTLE BROKE MY TOOTH.
AND YET ENOUGH REMAIN FOR THE FLESH FEAST TO COME, BROTHER.
MAN, KOYA— YOU'RE NASTY!
HEH. IF YOU THINK THAT'S NASTY, BOPSTER...
...JUST WAIT 'T'LL YOU SEE WHAT COMES NEXT.
"THIS IS BAD!"

WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!
NO! ANGEL!
WHOA.
I TOLD YOU—WE CAN'T GET INVOLVED.
BUT—
NO BUTS.
WE HAVE TO LET THIS FINISH WITHOUT US.
YES, LITTLE FOX, YOU DO
BUT KNOW THIS— NO MATTER HOW THIS FINISHES, YOU WILL BE SAFE, AT HOME...
WHA—
...WITH ME

ART BY KENJO CASTANO
COLORS BY RODDA PATTISON

ISSUE #50

TMNT

YO, KOYA AND BLUDGEON, THE WAY YOUSE TWO ARE ALWAYS TALKIN' 'BOUT EATIN' YER KILLS, I HOPE YER REAL HUNGRY RIGHT NOW.
'CAUSE SOUP'S ON!
CAN IT, JERK!
FZAK
GYAHH!
I'VE GOT A NEWSFLASH FOR YOU IDIOTS—
—WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO LOSE!
WOOSH

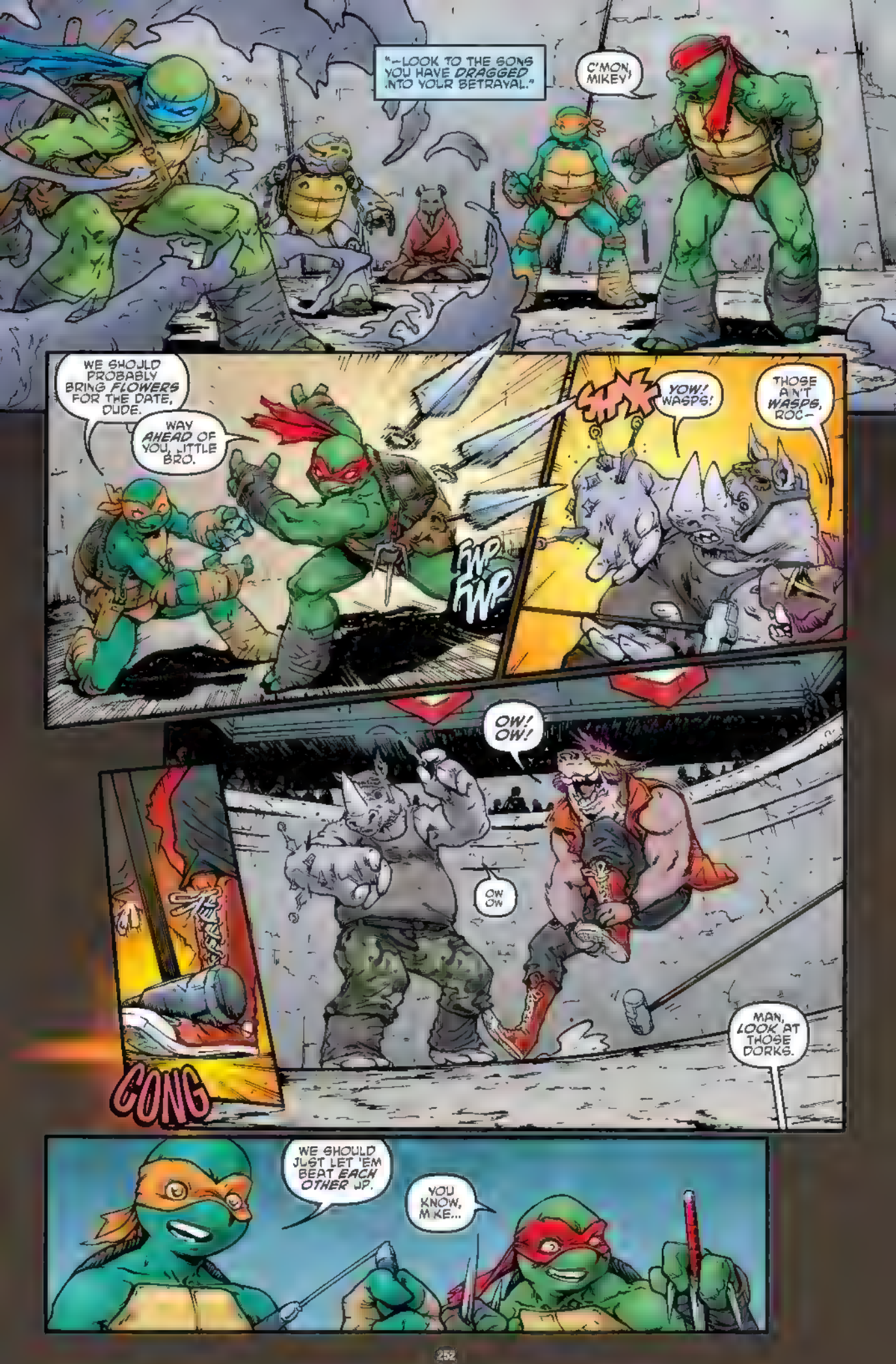
GUYS, I CAN ONLY KEEP THE BOZO BARBEQUE COOKING FOR SO LONG.
HOLD UP! NO MORE RUSHING 'N HALF-COCKED. WE'RE NEVER GONNA BEAT THESE GUYS BY BRAWLING.
BUT-
LISTEN TO YOUR BROTHER, RAPHAEL...
...YOU MUST NOT LET YOUR OPPONENTS DICTATE THE FLOW OF THE BATTLE.
THEY RELY ON BRUTE STRENGTH AND CHAOS. IF YOU ARE TO DEFEAT THEM, YOU MUST COUNTER WITH SPEED AND SKILL, INTELLIGENCE AND BEARING.
CONTROL YOURSELVES AND YOU CONTROL THE FIGHT.
FATHER'S RIGHT. I HATE THOSE PSYCHOS AS MUCH AS ANYONE, BUT WE CAN'T MAKE THIS PERSONAL RIGHT NOW OR WE'RE NO GOOD TO EACH OTHER.
TIME TO DO THIS LIKE A TEAM.
AND NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT...
'CAUSE I'M RUNNING OUTTA GAS
WHY DO YOU DAWDLE, FOOLS?!

DESTROY THEM!
YOU HEARD THE MASTER!
SKREE
OKAY, HERE THEY COME. WE CAN DO THIS, GUYS.
WE HAVE TO...
" FOR FATHER "
FOR FATHER!

HNH?
HUPP!
OAHH!
FAK
FWP
DUDE, I TOTALLY JUMPED THE SHARK!
TOO EASY, MIKE. TOO EASY.
NOTHING'S EASY TODAY.
WE'VE GOT THEM CONFUSED. NOW LET'S SCATTER AND KEEP THEM OFF BALANCE.
OFF BALANCE?
GREAT IDEA!
YOU ALL RIGHT, B?
STUPID LASERS
SKREEEEEEEEEEEEE
GAH!
YO, FISH BREATH. CANDY-GRAM
WHA-
WHAM
SKREE
CHAK
SMP
HEH. CANDY-GRAM.
GOOD ONE, RAPH.
BAPF
GAH!
PATHETIC TRICKS WON'T KEEP YOU-
-HIDDEN?
IMBECILES!

THEY HAVE STOLEN YOUR ADVANTAGE!
YOU ARE LOSING CONTROL!
CONTROL YOURSELF..
DUDE, WHAT'S FATHER DOIN'?
YOU ASK ME...
"...LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTIN' READY FOR HIS TURN."
. CONTROL THE FIGHT.
LET'S FINISH THIS...
". SO FATHER WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT BY HIMSELF."
"TAKE HEART, YOSHI— YOUR PRECIOUS SONS ARE WITH YOU..."

...YOU WILL NOT DIE ALONE THIS DAY.
NO, SAKI! THEY ARE...
...INNOCENT.
ARE THEY?
I THINK NOT.
NO, I SEE FOUR SOLDIERS, GUILTY OF KNOWINGLY COLLABORATING WITH A SWORN ENEMY OF THE FOOT CLAN.
GUILTY OF COLLABORATING WITH YOU, HAMATO YOSHI.
BUT... THEY ARE ONLY BOYS.
AS WERE WE WHEN WE FIRST TOOK UP OUR KATANA. YET, YOUTHFUL AS WE WERE, WE KNEW ANY GUILT THAT BELONGED TO OUR MASTER BELONGED TO US AS WELL.
WHY SHOULD IT BE ANY DIFFERENT FOR THESE FOUR? YOU CHOSE TO BETRAY THE FOOT AND THEY, IN TURN, CHOSE TO FOLLOW YOU AND NOW ALL WILL PAY THE JUST PRICE FOR THOSE DECISIONS.
I WILL NEVER ALLOW DEFIANCE OF MY RULE TO GO UNPUNISHED.
"AND SO, LOOK THERE, HAMATO YOSHI—"


"--LOOK TO THE SONS YOU HAVE DRAGGED INTO YOUR BETRAYAL."
C'MON, MIKEY!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY BRING FLOWERS FOR THE DATE, DUDE.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, LITTLE BRO.
FWP FWP
YOW! WASPS!
THOSE AIN'T WASPS, ROC--
OW! OW!
OW OW
MAN, LOOK AT THOSE DORKS.
GONG
WE SHOULD JUST LET 'EM BEAT EACH OTHER UP.
YOU KNOW, MIKE...

".. I THINK YOU'RE ONTO SOMETHIN' "
BURNOW ISLAND
OKAY— I'VE GOT THE FINAL FLOW-TUBE ATTACHED.
WE'RE READY FOR THE OOZE INSTILLATION
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS IS LESS AN INSTILLATION, PROFESSOR...
CLIK
...AND MORE OF A DELUGE.
BUT A HEALING DELUGE, RIGHT?
I SUPPOSE WE'LL SOON FIND OUT.
SPEAKING FROM MUCH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE...
...AN UNKNOWN OUTCOME WON'T STOP YOU SCIENCE TYPES FROM CONDUCTING YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT, WILL IT?
.. IT CAN'T.
NO—NOT THIS TIME. IT WON'T.
WITH ALL THAT'S AT STAKE. .

"YOU WASTE YOUR TIME..."
...PRAYING FOR THE THINGS YOU DESIRE WHEN, IN TRUTH, ONLY ACTION WILL SUFFICE.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD SAY MEDITATION AND PRAYING ARE, AT TIMES, THE ONLY ACTIONS SUFFICIENT FOR ONE'S CAUSE, SAKI.
FOR PRIESTS AND THE POWERLESS, PERHAPS. BUT WE ARE WARRIORS, YOSHI. NINJA.
OUR DESTINIES ARE FORGED ON THE BATTLEFIELD—NOT TRAIPSING MINDLESSLY THROUGH THE ASTRAL DOMAIN.
MINDLESSLY?
IT'S NOT OFTEN I HEAR SUCH PALPABLE IRONY FROM YOUR LIPS, BROTHER.
FEH! CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL. IT MAKES ME NO LESS RIGHT.
I THINK MASTERS MAJI AND MASATO WOULD DISAGREE.
THEY MIGHT...
...WERE THEY STILL ALIVE.
BUT THEY ARE NOT AND NO AMOUNT OF MEDITATING WILL CHANGE THAT FACT.
NO. BUT WE CAN STILL HONOR THEIR MEMORY.
TELL ME, SAKI...
...HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU INTEND TO WREAK MINDLESS DESTRUCTION IN THE NAME OF THE FOOT CLAN?
HOW LONG? UNTIL ORDER IS ESTABLISHED—ABSOLUTE ORDER UNDER THE FOOT.
AND YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW, YOSHI, ORDER ONLY COMES...

"...FROM CHAOS."
THIS IS CRAZY, DUDE!
TOTALLY CRAZY
YEAH—BUT MAYBE JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO WORK.
C'MON, YOU B G DUMMIES...
...WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR?
YEAH, WE'RE RIGHT HERE. STANDIN' STILL.
LIKE TWO INSANE PEOPLE
GRAH!
KILL 'EM!
NOW, MIKE!

WHERE DID YOU GO, LITTLE WORM?
YOU KNOW WHAT BIRDS DO TO WORMS, YES?
YEAH, YEAH– YOU EAT THEM.
CAREFUL YOU DON'T CHOKE!
SKKKK!
WHPP
"LOOKS LIKE BIRDBRAIN'S IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE..."
KRAK

..ARE YOU GONNA JUST LET YOUR FRIEND GO DOWN LIKE THAT WITHOUT LIFTING A FIN TO HELP?
NO! MY WINGS!
KOYA?
FOOAKK
GRARR!
OH, THAT INJURY LOOKS BAD.
WE BETTER PUT A LIGHT ON IT.
YAHH!
I CAN'T SEE!
"DUDE, I THINK DONNIE AND LEO ARE WINNIN'."

BUT ARE WE?!
FWAM
FWAM
FWAM
PRETTY MUCH, YEAH.
WE GOT THESE GUYS KNOCK'N' THE STUFFIN' OUTTA EACH OTHER, DON'T WE?
QUIT HITTIN' ME, PAL!
I AIN'T TRYIN' TO! 'SIDES, YOU HIT ME!
YEAH, BUT THEY GOT A LOT OF STUFFIN'. WE TOTALLY DROPPED A WHOLE BUILDIN' ON 'EM ONCE, REMEMBER?
NYAH! NYAH!
COME AND GET US, TWEEDLE-DWEEB AND TWEEDLE-DUH!
GET 'EM!
D'S IS ALL THEIR FAULT!
LUCKY FOR US, MOST OF THAT STUFFIN' IS BETWEEN THE R EARS.
"YOUR FRENDS FIGHT INTELLIGENTLY..."

...THEY FIND STRENGTH IN THEIR OPPONENTS' WEAKNESSES.
CUNNING.
LIKE FOXES
BUT WE ARE THE ONLY TRUE FOXES HERE, CHILD. YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT AFTER THIS RITUAL HAS BEEN COMPLETED
YES, THE VICTORS WILL BE THE STRONGEST AND THE MOST CUNNING. BUT THE SPOILS OF THE VICTORY?
THOSE WHO GO TO THOSE MOST SLY.
ALOPEX? ALOPEX!
WHA... WHAT?
YOU OKAY? YOU LOOKED LIKE A ZOMBIE OR SOMETHIN'.
YEAH, I... GUESS I JUST SPACED OUT FOR A MOMENT.
SNAP OUTTA IT. YOU'RE MISSIN' THE WHOLE FIGHT
HOW ARE THE TURTLES DOING? ARE THEY WINNING?
WELL... THEY AIN'T LOSIN'.
OH... THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
"I CAN'T SEE YOU!"

KOYA! WHERE ARE YOU?! I'M... I'M BLIND!
HERE, BLUDGEON!
HELP ME! PLEASE!
KOYA?!
UFF!
SWIP
GET AWAY FROM HER! CAN'T YOU HEAR? SHE'S DONE!
YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOUR WINGS! WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED, KOYA?
THE TRAITOR— LEONARDO. BROKE MY WING AND STOLE MY FEATHERS. JUST AS THE ROBOT STOLE YOUR EYES.
WHEN I HEARD YOU SCREAM, I... I LOST FOCUS ON THE FIGHT AND—
STOP. IT DOESN'T MATTER. WE HAVE BOTH FAILED.
THIS FIGHT DOESN'T BELONG TO US ANYMORE.
"OKAY, THIS IS GETTIN' EMBARRASSIN'!"

UFF!
THE MORE WE GET THESE IDIOTS TO WALLOP EACH OTHER...
"...THE MORE THEY KEEP GETTIN' UP."
YOU DID IT AGAIN, DUMMY!
WHO YOU CALLIN' DUMMY, DUMMY?!
AND THE MORE POOPED WE GET. PHEW!
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A NEW PLAN.
LEO! ROBO-BRO! THANK GOD!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BIRD AND THE FISH?
GROUNDED.
SEEING THINGS IN A NEW LIGHT.
WHATEVER. WE STILL GOT THE NIMROD TWINS TO DEAL WITH.
WE MADE 'EM BEAT EACH OTHER UP... BUT I THINK THEY LIKE IT.

TIME TO START BEATING THEM UP *OURSELVES*, THEN. RAPH'S NOT THE *ONLY ONE* ITCHING FOR SOME SERIOUS PAYBACK.
WAIT. HOLD THAT THOUGHT, LEO.
YES, I'M LISTENING.
NOW? YOU'RE SURE?
YOU DON'T SOUND SURE.
WHO'S HE *TALKIN'* TO?
GOT ME.
WHOEVER IT IS...
"...HE NEEDS TO MAKE IT *REAL QUICK*."
SORRY 'BOUT *CONKIN'* YOU ON THE HEAD BEFORE, ROCK.
AND CALLIN' YOU A DUMMY
NOT *HALF* AS SORRY AS THOSE *GREEN LOSERS* ARE 'BOUT TO BE, B.
OKAY... IF YOU THINK SO. HOW MUCH TIME?
C'MON, *C'MON*, DONNIE...
OKAY SHOULD BE ENOUGH
GOOD LUCK.

PUT YOUR WEAPONS DOWN, GUYS, AND STAND BACK.
DONNE, WHAT ARE Y—
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS, MIKEY
LET'S JUST SAY I LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT CONVENTIONAL FIGHTING WON'T STOP BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS T.N. CAN DO,N'?
COMMITTIN' SLICIDE.
NO—THAT'S GONNA TAKE SOMETHING A BIT MORE DRASTIC.
BYE, FELLAS. IT'S BEEN A BLAST.
SELF-DESTRUCT
ACTIVATED

BA-DOOM
DONNIE!
WHAT IS THIS?
DONATELLO?
OH... NO.

STUPID ROBOT.
THOUGHT HE COULD... #KOFF#... BLOW US UP.
YEAH... #KOFF# NOW HIS STUPID BROTHERS ARE GONNA NEED A #KOFF# VETERAN TO FIX 'EM UP WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH 'EM.
CLONG
IT'S VETERINARIAN...
...STUPID.
CLANG
NO...
...FREAK-N'...
WAY...
MAN...
...THAT FELT GOOD.

DONNIE!
WELCOME BACK, BRO.
WHOA! KETTLE DRUM!
KONG
HEH, YEAH—NEW AND IMPROVED, JUST LIKE MY BO-STAFF. ALL COURTESY OF FUG TOID.
AND YET THE SAME HEROIC WARRIOR YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN.
FATHER!
YES, MY SON. AND VERY PROUD TO BE SO.
YOU WILL SOON HAVE TO SHARE HOW PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT WAS ABLE TO BRING YOU BACK TO US IN SUCH A FASHION, MY SON.
BUT FIRST...
...I KNOW YOU ARE WEARY FROM THE FIRST BATTLE, BUT I MUST ASK THAT YOU FIND THE STRENGTH WITHIN YOURSELVES TO CARRY ON WITHOUT ME FOR A SHORT TIME LONGER.
WITHOUT YOU?
YES, MICHELANGELO. BEFORE DONATELLO SURPRISED US WITH HIS RETURN, I WAS SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE ASTRAL PLANE—SEARCHING FOR CLUES FROM THE PAST TO HELP ME DEFEAT SAKI.
I HAVE YET TO FIND THEM.

OKAY. THIS IS IT. WE'VE *TRAINED* FOR THIS. WE'VE *BLED* FOR THIS. WE'VE NEARLY *DIED* FOR THIS.
AND NOW WE WILL *FINISH* THIS. AND IF WE CAN'T, THEN WE DO WHAT WE CAN TO BUY SENSE THE *TIME* HE NEEDS. TOGETHER.
WHAT CAN *WE* DO, MASTER SPLINTER?
PRAY, CHILD.
PRAY W TH ALL YOUR *HEART* AND *SOUL*.
ARE YOU QUITE *FINISHED*, YOSHI?
I GROW *TIRED* OF THIS DELAY.
YOU ARE RIGHT, SAKI— THIS SACRED RITE IS ONLY *HALF* COMPLETE, AND THE FIRST V CTORY BELONGS TO *CLAN HAMATO*.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT IS YOUR RIGHT, AS THE CHALLENGED, TO CHOOSE *WHERE* WE FIGHT THE FINAL BATTLE IN THIS RITUAL.
I CHOOSE THE ROOFTOP.
SINCE YOU ENJOY SPENDING SO MUCH PRECIOUS TIME IN YOUR HEAD WANDERING THROUGH THE *COSMOS*...

" WHY NOT LET THE HEAVENS BE WITNESS TO YOUR DOOM?"
COME THEN, SONS OF HAMATO YOSHI.
KNOW YOUR BETTER!

RRGG!
SWIIP
KNOW THIS, JERK!
CRETIN!
KRK
UHH!
SMAK
WHFF!
HEY SHREDDER-- REMEMBER ME?
FUMP
HM. THE DUPLICITOUS DONATELLO
DON'T KNOW WHAT DUPLICITOUS MEANS.
...BUT YOU'VE BEEN DUPED, CROW SUCKY!
CRAK
DUPED? INDEED
SOMETHING YOU MUTANTS SHOULD WELL UNDERSTAND
LED LIKE CATTLE TO THE ABATTOIR
GUILELESSLY FOLLOWING YOUR FATHER TO HIS DOOM
THE FILTHY RODENT WHO SLEEPS THROUGH YOUR SLAUGHTER
SHALL WE CONTINUE?

YES! LET'S!
AH, THE FAILED CHUNIN.
THE FIRST TO ATTACK.
SHING
GRFF!
SNK
THE FIRST TO FALL.
FALL? WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED, SHREDDER.
I PROMISE YOU—SO AM I.
PROMISE?!
I MADE A PROMISE, TOO!
KRAK

A PROMISE TO NEVER FORGET HOW BADLY YOU HURT ME WHEN YOU SENT YOUR GOONS AFTER ME!
A PROMISE TO NEVER LET YOU HURT ANYONE ELSE LIKE THAT AGAIN.
YOU WASTE YOUR BREATH WITH ALL THIS TALK OF PROMISES. YOU MAY HAVE NEW POWER.
BUT...
I.
AM.
HRRK!
POWER!
PITIFUL.
YOU'RE LOOKIN' PRETTY DAMN SMUG, SHREDHEAD.
TIME TO WIPE IT OFF YOUR UGLY FACE.
"CONTROL YOUR ANGER!"

YOU WILL NEVER KNOW TRUE VICTORY THAT WAY!
YOUR FURY HAS COST YOU YOUR BALANCE, BOY!
HA! I'VE GOT YOU NOW, YOSHI!
HUH?!
AND YOU, SAKI! ALWAYS TOO EAGER TO STRIKE YOUR OPPONENTS WHEN THEY APPEAR DEFENSELESS!
AH, LOOK AT YOU BOTH—NEARLY DROWNING IN YOUR SHAME AND CARELESSNESS.
ONE WHO WOULD LET ANGER RULE HIS ACTIONS, ANOTHER WHO IS DRIVEN BY AN INSATIABLE NEED FOR DOMINANCE.
DO YOU NOT SEE—IF YOU DO NOT LEARN WHERE THESE COMPULSIONS COME FROM, AND HOW TO USE THEM INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THEM TO USE YOU...
"...THEN YOU ARE DOOMED ALWAYS TO FALL."
STAY DOWN, FOOL!

YOU POSSESS THE SAME BURNING SPIRIT YOUR FATHER ONCE OWNED--BEFORE HE SURRENDERED TO WEAKNESS AND COMPASSION.
A SPIRIT I WILL WELCOME INTO THE FOOT ONCE HE IS GONE.
YEAH?
OVER MY DEAD BODY.
SO BE IT.
HNH!
SWIP
FWK
BUT UNDERSTAND, MY OFFER WAS SINCERE.
SWIP
RAAGH!
SHLP
YOU WILL REGRET SO FOOLISHLY TOSSING IT AWAY.
DAMMIT!
GOT YOU, BRO!

NO MORE!
SWAK
UNF!
I'M SO SICK OF YOU! ALWAYS HURTIN' PEOPLE!
HIYAH!
THUD
ALWAYS HURTIN' MY FAMILY!
IMPRESSIVE. I DID NOT EXPECT SUCH FIRE FROM YOU.
I'M NOT TRYIN' TO IMPRESS YOU, SHREDDER.
I'M TRYIN' TO STOP YOU!
GYAAH!
A PITY THIS NEW ANGER LEAVES YOU UNBALANCED...

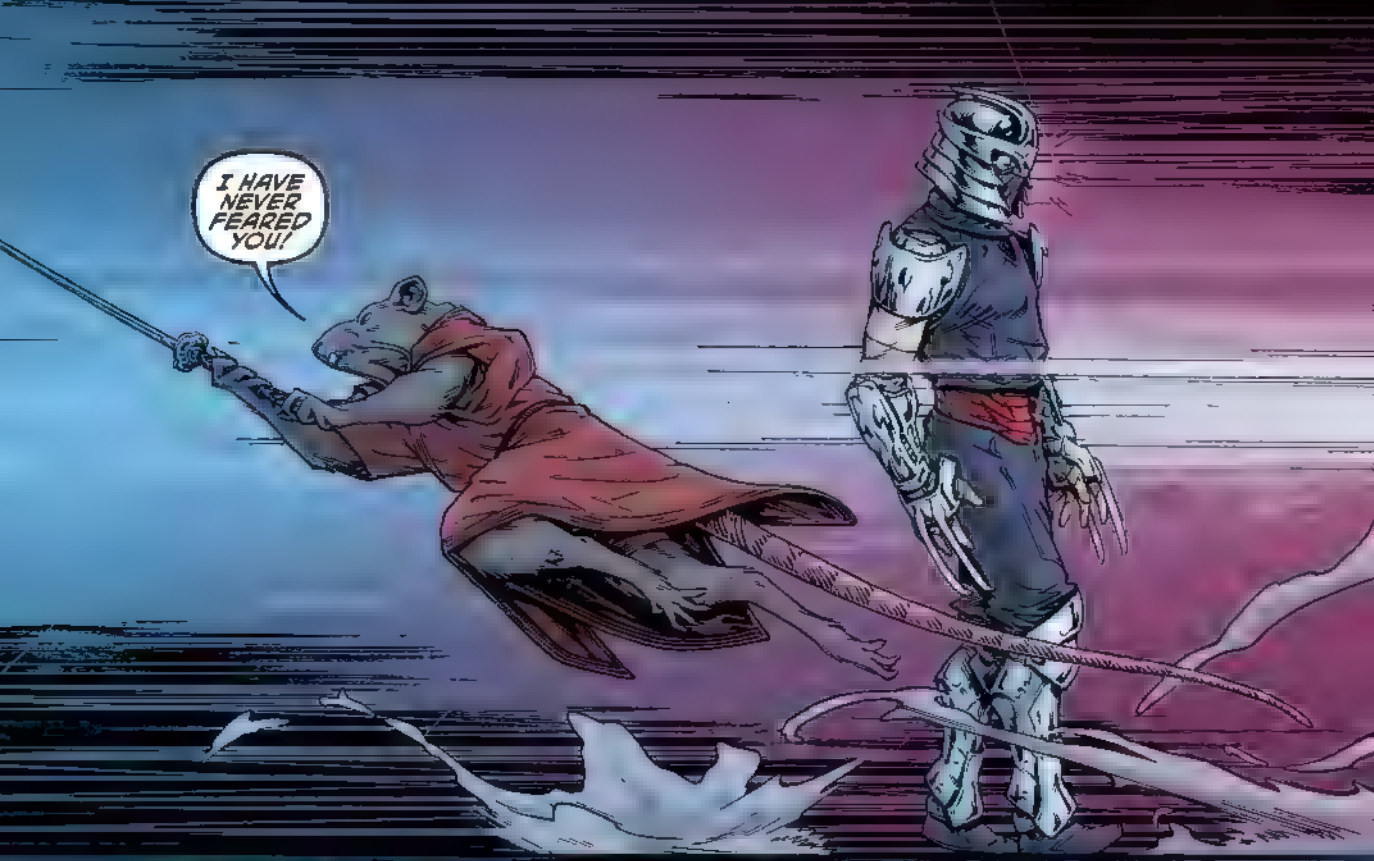
"...UNHINGED."
FWAP WHAP
NOT SO BIG NOW, EH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP!
UNFF!
DON'T YOU SEE HE'S DONE, SAKI?!
HM. I SEE IT NOW. THE WEAKLING.
WHY WOULD YOU ATTACK HIM LIKE THAT?
BECAUSE HE TELLS EVERYONE HE IS THE STRONGEST AND THE TOUGHEST. I WANTED TO SHOW HE WAS WRONG.
BUT HE'S NEVER THREATENED YOU DIRECTLY!
DOES IT MATTER?
YES, SAKI, IT DOES. MASTER MASATO SAYS WE ARE ONLY TO FIGHT IF WE HAVE TO.
PRECISELY. I DID WHAT I HAD TO.
SO, ARE YOU GOING TO LET THAT HOT ANGER OF YOURS OUT NOW, YOSHI? SHOULD I PUT YOU IN YOUR PROPER PLACE, TOO, EH?
NO, SAKI— NOT THIS TIME. JUST REMEMBER, YOU MIGHT BE THE STRONGEST AND TOUGHEST...

"...BUT YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN ME."
AH, YOSHI. AWAKE FROM YOUR DAYDREAMS, I SEE.
YES, YOU COULD SAY I HAVE AWAKENED.
WHILE YOU BATTLED MY BRAVE SONS, I MEDITATED ON OUR HISTORY TOGETHER, SAKI, LOOKING FOR ANY FRAILTIES YOU MAY HAVE—WEAKNESSES I COULD EXPLOIT IN THE BATTLE TO COME.
AT FIRST ALL I SAW, AS I TRAVELED STEP-BY-STEP THROUGH OUR SHARED PAST, WAS YOUR INNATE AND UNDENIABLE POWER.
"BUT THEN I RECALLED SOMETHING MASTER MASATO TOLD US WHEN WE WERE BOYS—ABOUT HOW OUR MOST PRIMAL IMPULSES CAN BE EITHER BOON OR BANE.
"IT WAS, HE SAID, ALL A MATTER OF UNDERSTANDING WHY WE POSSESSED THEM... AND, THEN, HOW BEST TO CHANNEL THEM.
"FOR ME, IT WAS AN UNPREDICTABLE RAGE THAT FESTERED INSIDE, ALWAYS READY TO ERUPT AND UNLEASH WRATH AGAINST THOSE I FELT HAD CAUSED ME PAIN.
"BUT I LEARNED OVER TIME MY FURY WAS SIMPLY MISGUIDED SELF-PROTECTION AND ALLOWING IT TO FLOW UNABATED CAUSED MORE HARM TO MYSELF THAN ANY OF MY ENEMIES.
"IT WASN'T UNTIL I LEARNED TO CONTROL IT, AS MASTER MASATO HAD ENCOURAGED SO MANY TIMES, THAT I FINALLY KNEW TRUE PEACE..."
...AND TRUE STRENGTH.

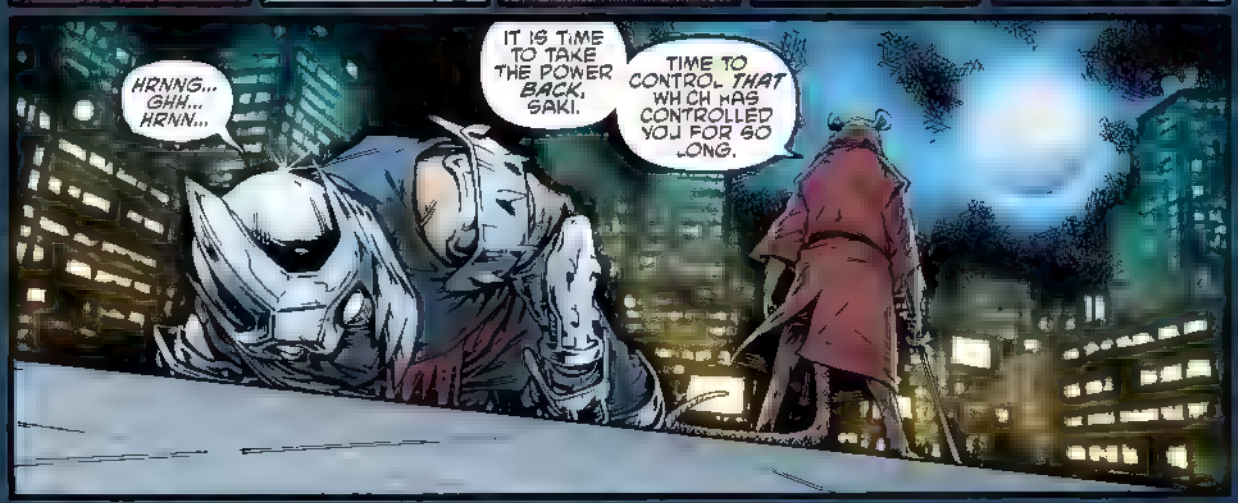
STRENGTH?
WHATEVER STRENGTH YOU POSSESSED *VANISHED* THE MOMENT YOU EXTINGUISHED THE RAGE-FIRE BURNING INSIDE OF YOU, RAT.
YOU MISUNDERSTAND, SAKI.
I NEVER SAID I PUT *OUT* THE FIRE.
I SAID I KNOW HOW TO *CONTROL* IT NOW. WHEN TO SUBDUE IT...
CRAK
...AND WHEN TO *UNLEASH* IT!
CHUD
FWAP
I LEARNED *SOMETHING ELSE* TODAY, TOO.
SWIP
HOW TO DIE?
NO.

IN TWO LIFETIMES, YOU HAVE SOUGHT TO DESTROY ME!
MY FAMILY!
KANG
TO CRUSH ALL THAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME—ALL THAT I LOVE! ALL OUT OF VENGEANCE!
GRF!
ALL TO PROVE NONE DARE DEFY Y—!
NNH!
CHOK
THERE ARE TWO PATHS, YOSHI—ONE FOR THE MEEK, ONE FOR THE POWERFUL.
WE MUST ALL CHOOSE WHICH TO FOLLOW. UNLIKE YOU, I CHOSE GREATNESS.
YOU ARE WRONG—THERE ARE MANY PATHS TO CHOOSE FROM. AS FOR ME...
I CHOSE DUTY!
I CHOS—
GRK!
YOU CHOSE PAIN, FOOL.

SUFFERING.
GYAHH!
SHUNK
AND DEATH!
FWOMP
DEATH AWAITS US ALL. N THAT... WE HAVE NO CHO CE.
AND YET, YOU SPEAK OF IT AS A FATE BELONGING SOLELY TO OTHERS.
IT IS TRUE—YOU ARE VERY POWERFUL, SAKI. BUT I UNDERSTAND NOW IT IS A POWER THAT CHOSE YOU, AND NOT YOU IT.
A POWER THAT DELUDES YOU INTO BE..IEVING YOU CANNOT BE DEFEATED. CANNOT BE DESTROYED.
BUT YOU ARE WRONG.
YES, DEATH CAN BE ESCAPED— WE BOTH KNOW THIS— BUT ONLY FOR A TIME.
YOU CHIDE ME FOR MY "MINDLESS" PURSUIT OF KNOW..EDGE IN THE ASTRAL PLANE, NEVER REALIZING IT HAS IN FACT MADE ME VERY MINDFUL OF DEATH'S DOM NION OVER ALL THINGS.
UNLIKE YOU, DEATH IS A THING I HAVE COME TO RESPECT AND, I AM UNASHAMED TO ADMIT— FOR THE SAFETY OF MY CHI..DREN— TO FEAR.
BUT IN YOUR BLIND CONFIDENCE, YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN, OROKU SAKI...


I HAVE NEVER FEARED YOU!

BUT... HOW...


HRNNG... GHH... HRNN...
IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE POWER BACK, SAKI.
TIME TO CONTROL THAT WHICH HAS CONTROLLED YOU FOR SO LONG.

TIME TO BE STRONG.
WE... WE WERE FRIENDS, YOSHI. BROTHERS.
AND THEN YOU... YOU TURNED YOUR BACK TO ME. WHY?
I DID NOT INTEND TO TURN MY BACK TO YOU, SAKI—ONLY TO WHAT YOU HAD BECOME.
BUT PERHAPS IN MY RASH ANGER, I ACCOMPLISHED BOTH.
FOR THAT, I AM TRULY SORRY.
THIS... THIS IS NOT HOW... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO END.
IT NEVER IS, MY FRIEND. DO YOU REMEMBER THE FOREST WE ONCE PLAYED IN AS SMALL BOYS? THE DREAMS WE SHARED?
YES. DREAMS OF WARRIOR GLORY, OF... OF SHARED HONOR.
I HAVE NEVER GIVEN UP ON THOSE DREAMS. EVEN IN THE DARKEST HOURS.
AND SO... THE POWER IS NOW IN YOUR CONTROL, OROKU SAKI. WHICH PATH DO YOU CHOOSE IN THESE, YOUR DYING MOMENTS?
I... HRFF... CHOOSE THE DREAM, YOSHI.
I CHOOSE A WARRIOR'S HONOR.
THEN IT IS MY HONOR TO HELP YOU KNOW THE DREAM ONCE AGAIN.

GRANDDAUGHTER, HEAR ME NOW. YOU ARE MY *FINEST* SOLDIER.
IF I HAVE EVER BEEN HARSH ON YOU, IT WAS FROM *PRIDE*...
...PRIDE IN YOUR *INDOMITABLE STRENGTH* AND *LOYALTY.*
HAI, MASTER.
<KITSUNE... I HAVE FAILED—BUT I DO *NOT* ACCEPT FAILURE.>
<IF WHAT YOSHI SAYS IS TRUE—IF THERE *ARE* MANY PATHS...>
<...I WILL FIND THE ONE THAT LEADS *BACK* TO YOU.>
<AND I WILL BE *WAITING,* MY DRAGON WARRIOR.>
AND *YOU,* HAMATO YOSHI...

HRRGG!
I WILL SEE YOU IN THE FOREST AGAIN... BROTHER.
I DO NOT DOUBT IT.
MY BROTHER.

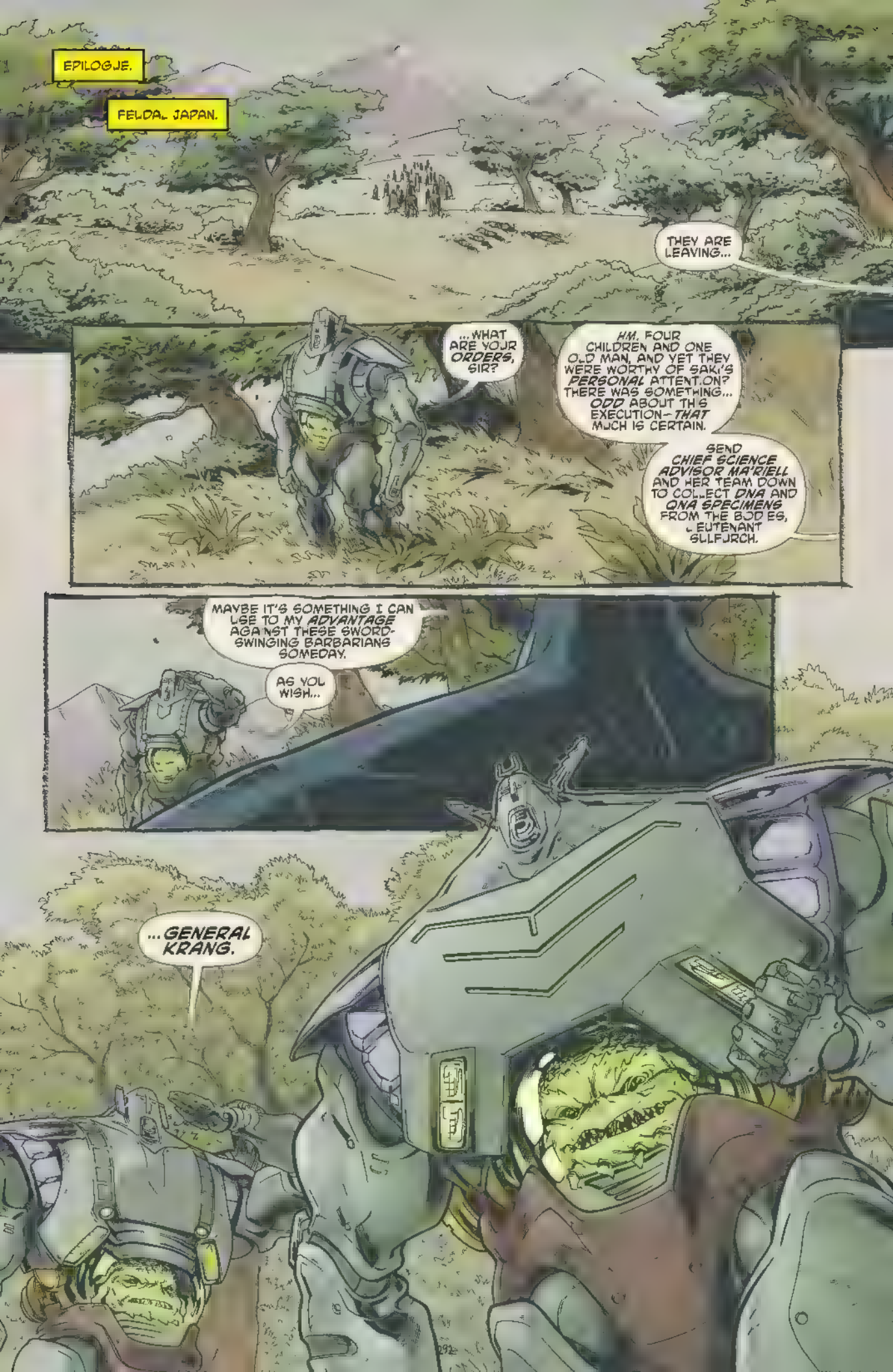
YOUR SWORD, MY SON.
THANK YOU... FATHER.
OH.. GOD
THIS ISN'T REAL.
HOW IS YOUR LEG, RAPHAEL?
NO BIGGIE, SENSEI. I'LL LIVE.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHOULDER, FATHER?
I, TOO, WILL LIVE, DONATELLO.
HAMATO YOSHI!
BACK OFF, KARAI—WE'RE DONE HERE.
I ONLY WISH TO SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER, LEONARDO.
PLEASE, SPEAK, OROKU KARAI.
I AM LISTENING.

THE JONIN OF THE FOOT CLAN IS DEAD.
AS CHUNIN, IT IS MY DUTY TO RISE UP AND BECOME MASTER. MY DUTY TO RULE.
AND WOULD YOU CONTINUE YOUR GRANDFATHER'S VENDETTA AGAINST US, CHILD?
OR WOULD YOU HONOR THE RIGHTEOUS OUTCOME OF THESE ANCIENT RITES?
I WOULD DO THAT AND MORE, HAMATO YOSHI. THE FOOT CLAN IS MY FAMILY—MY LIFE—AND I WANT ONLY WHAT IS BEST FOR IT.
TODAY, I HAVE WITNESSED TRUE HONOR—TRUE LEADERSHIP.
AND I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT I MUST LOOK TO THE PAST IF I AM EVER TO ATTAIN THOSE SAME ATTRIBUTES. TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.
TO JAPAN.
THEREFORE, I HUMBLY OFFER MY GRANDFATHER'S THRONE—AND MY SWORD—TO YOU...
...MASTER SPLINTER.
AND I HUMBLY ACCEPT YOUR OFFERING TO LEAD THE FOOT CLAN, OROKU KARAI.
JUST AS I ACCEPT...
...YOUR SWORD.
NO.

I'M DONE.
I... CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS.
NOT ANYMORE. NOT IF THIS IS WHAT ALL THE FIGHTIN' TURNS US INTO.
WAIT, MIKEY, IT'S NOT—
DON'T TOUCH ME.
DO NOT STOP HIM, LEONARDO.
HIS CONFUSION IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THIS NEW PATH IS UNEXPECTED FOR ALL OF US.
WE MUST GIVE YOUR BROTHER THE SPACE HE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND IT FOR HIMSELF... IN HIS OWN WAY.
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, MASTER, I WOULD DEPART IMMEDIATELY AS WELL, ACCOMPANIED BY A SELECT FEW.
OF COURSE, OROKU KARAI— YOU MAY TAKE ANY SOLDIERS YOU BELIEVE WILL BENEFIT FROM SUCH A JOURNEY.
KITSUNE, HOWEVER, WILL REMAIN HERE...
"... UNDER MY WATCHFUL EYE"
SO WHAT'S NEXT, FATHER? WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOW, LEONARDO?
"I TOLD YOU, SAK!"
I TOLD YOU THE FOREST WAS FUN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOSHI! IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
AND THIS PRACTICE WILL REALLY HELP US, TOO, WHEN WE START TRAINING WITH MASTER MASATO!
THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER A LOT!
LIKE BROTHERS!
AND WE'LL BECOME GREAT WARRIORS!
AND MAYBE IF WE TRAIN HARD ENOUGH...
"...WE CAN BOTH BECOME GREAT MASTERS SOMEDAY!"
NOW...

. . WE EMBRACE OUR DESTINY


EPILOGJE.
FELDAL JAPAN.
THEY ARE LEAVING...
...WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, SIR?
HM. FOUR CHILDREN AND ONE OLD MAN, AND YET THEY WERE WORTHY OF SAKI'S PERSONAL ATTENTION? THERE WAS SOMETHING... ODD ABOUT THIS EXECUTION—THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.
SEND CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR MA'RIELL AND HER TEAM DOWN TO COLLECT DNA AND DNA SPECIMENS FROM THE BODIES, LEUTENANT SULFURCH.
MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING I CAN USE TO MY ADVANTAGE AGAINST THESE SWORD-SWINGING BARBARIANS SOMEDAY.
AS YOU WISH...
...GENERAL KRANG.

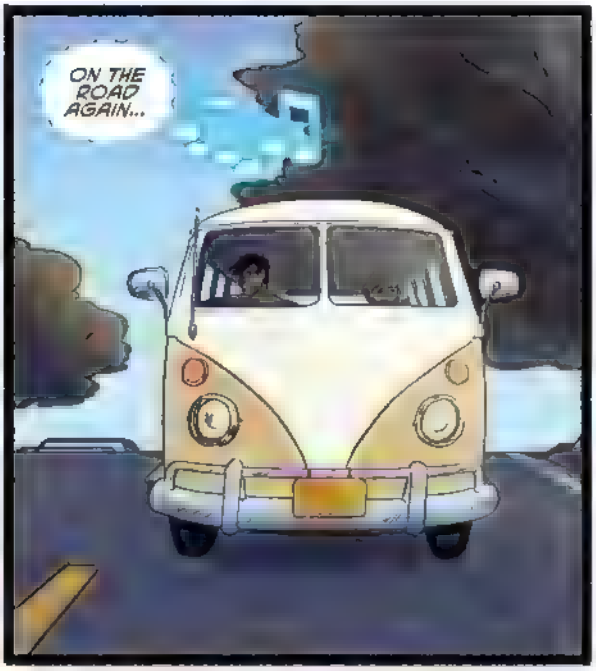
ART BY GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ
COLORS BY DELSON DANIEL

CASEY & APRIL "I"

art by IRENE KON

HOLLAND TUNNEL
POLICE STILL LOOKING FOR SUSPECTS IN RELATION TO A GRUESOME MURDER IN A CAMPUS PARKING LOT THIS PAST WEEK. A PUBLIC SPOKESPERSON STATED THAT THE...

TITANS DESTROYED THE SAINTS LAST NIGHT WITH A CRUSHING LAST MINUTE DRIVE AS CROWDS CHEERED...


ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

IT'S FUNNY.

DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD BE ON VACATION OR SOMETHING?

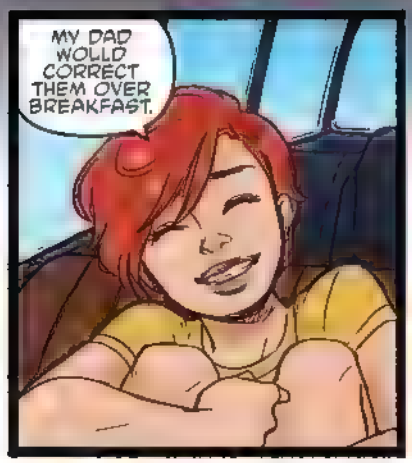
UH. I GUESS.

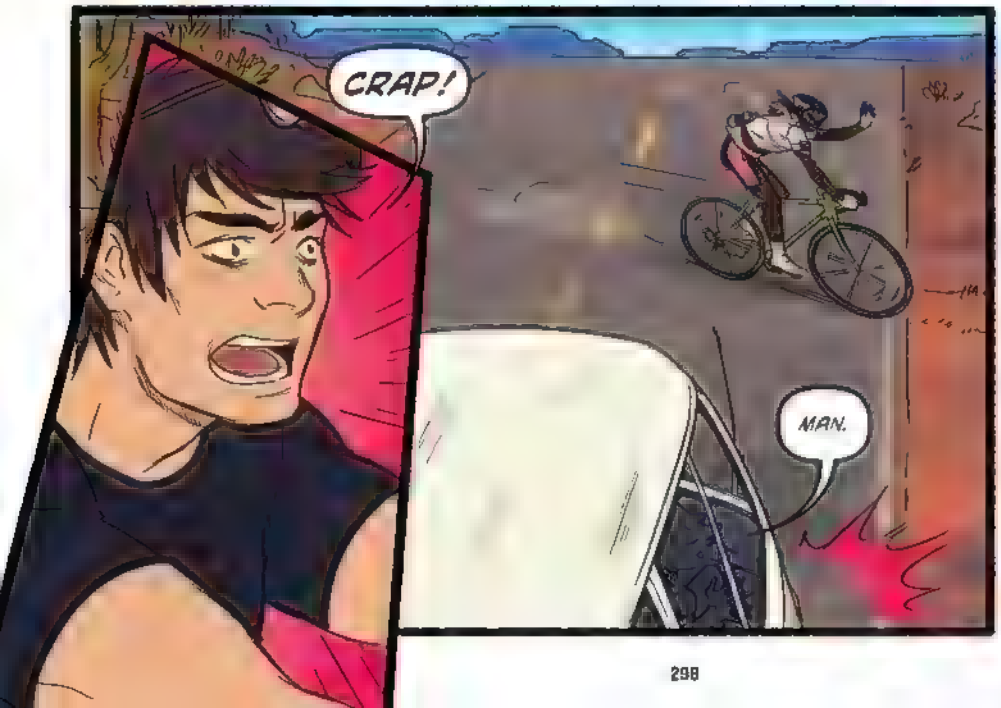
WE CAN DO THIS, RIGHT?
TRACK DOWN EVIDENCE OF WARRING IMMORTAL CREATURES WHO DISAPPEARED AGES AGO?
YEAH, I THINK WE CAN HANDLE IT.
IT FEELS DIFFERENT. WITH JUST US.
WE'LL BE *FINE*.
AREN'T THERE STUDIES ON COUPLES THAT WORK TOGETHER...?
COUPLES.
"COUPLES." SOUNDS LIKE "OLD COUPLES."
WHAT?
OH.
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE A TURN DRIVING?
SURE.

WHAT DOES THE PANTHEON HAVE TO DO WITH THE DESERT?
THERE'S TEXT IN THE SCROLL REFERRING TO A BRIDGE, WHICH THE PROFESSOR THOUGHT REFERRED TO THE BERINGIA, WHICH WAS A ROUTE BETWEEN ASIA AND NORTHWESTERN AMERICA 20,000 YEARS AGO.
PLUS, I WAS TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AND I NOTICED THIS.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
I THINK THEY'RE YUCCA BREVIFOLIA. JOSHUA TREES.
WHICH MEANS THE MOJAVE DESERT.
CACTUS.
WELL. YUCCA.
ISN'T THIS WHOLE CHUNK OF CALIFORNIA SUPPOSED TO FALL INTO THE OCEAN? EVENTUALLY?
YOU MEAN THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT?
UM. THAT'S NOT EXACTLY HERE.
ACTUALLY IT'S MORE LIKE EVENTUALLY SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES WILL BE NEIGHBORS.
JUST A LITTLE PIECE OF GEOGRAPHICAL 411 FOR YOU UH. ANYWAY.
I COULD EAT WHENEVER.

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO THE GRAND CANYON.
EVERY NIGHT I WOULD GO STAND OUTSIDE AND LOOK AT THE STARS.
I HAD THIS NOTEBOOK...

"...I KEPT ALL MY CONSTE...AT.ON CHARTS IN IT."





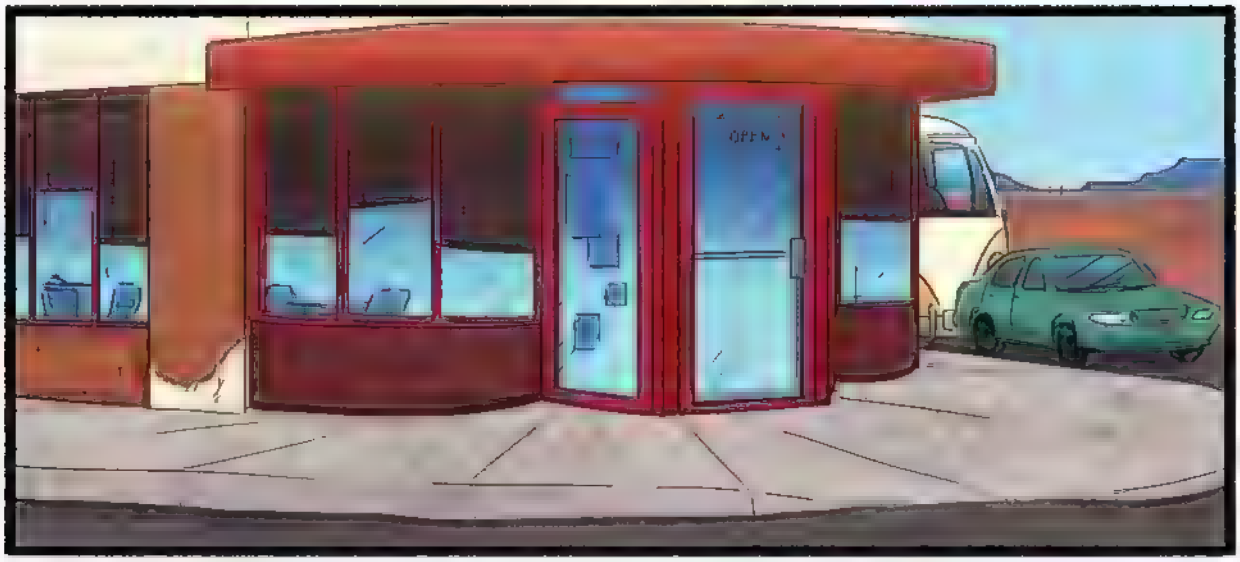
"FIRST TIME I SAW A STAR.
"... I WAS LIKE, 12. MAYBE I WAS HIDING OUT ON THIS ROOF TO GET AWAY FROM THE OLD MAN. AND THIS ONE NIGHT I LOOKED UP AND I SAW... YOU KNOW, STARS.
"BUT THEY WERE MOVING."
TURNS OUT THEY WERE PLANES. I JUST NEVER NOTICED, YOU KNOW, THE SKY BEFORE.
AW! THAT'S SO SWEET.
YEAH, SURE, SWEET.
DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF WE'D KNOWN EACH OTHER AS LITTLE KIDS?
ME AND YOU AS KIDS IS LIKE NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA.
DIFFERENT WORLDS.

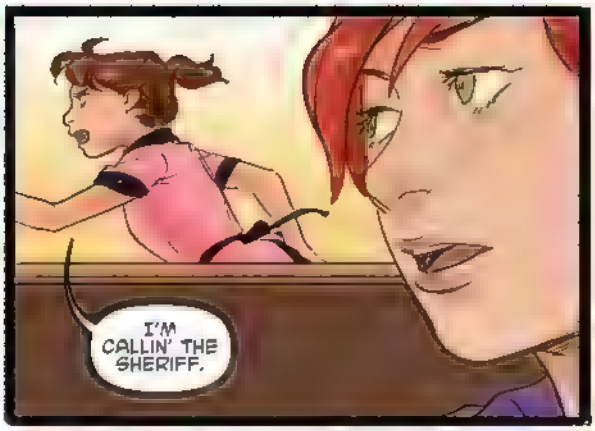
"DIFFERENT PLANETS"
LUNCH?
YES. UH. PLEASE.
WELL THEN. TAKE A SEAT ALREADY.
YOU GUYS WANT COFFEE?
YES.

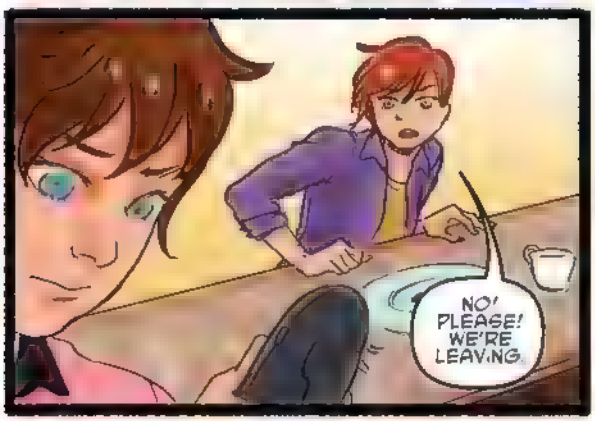
NO WORD FROM THE GUYS. MAYBE NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?
IS IT?
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THAT'S EVER TRUE.
YEAH, I GUESS NOT.

YOU GUYS FROM NEW YORK OR SOMETHING?
HA. YEAH. IS IT OBVIOUS?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FROM HERE.
YOU LIKE LIVING IN NEW YORK?
SURE. I MEAN, IT'S SUPER PRETTY HERE, THOUGH.
THAT'S NICE OF YOU. THIS PLACE IS A HOLE.
HEY! YOU THINK WE COULD GET A LITTLE SERVICE?
I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT.
CITY PUNKS.
DON'T START ANYTHING.
CASEY?
CASEY.
LIKE THE KID IN THE SONG.

HEY! WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT SONG? ABOUT THE L TTLE KID AND H S TRAIN? YOU KNOW THAT SONG, BOY?
TURTLE SOUP
JED.
HEY, I'M JUST TRYING TO ASK A BOY HERE ABOUT A SONG.
YOU KNOW THAT SONG, BOY?
MAYBE YOU CAN HUM A FEW BARS.
YEAH, COME OVER HERE AND I'LL WH STLE IT.


OPEN


I'M CALLIN' THE SHERIFF.


NO! PLEASE! WE'RE LEAVING.

OPEN
CASEY!
HEY.
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALK IN HERE AND START SOMETH NG AND R DE OFF?
JED! I'M ABOUT TO CALL YOUR WIFE. DON'T MAKE ME GET HER OUT OF BED.
CASEY!

WHAT?!
WHAT?
YOU'RE MAD?
OH, BECAUSE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THRILLED THAT YOU ALMOST GOT YOURSELF THROWN IN JAIL OVER NOTHING?
THAT GUY WAS A BULLY! I'M SUPPOSED TO SIT THERE AND JUST TAKE IT BECAUSE I DON'T WANT MY GIRLFRIEND TO GET UPSET?
NO! OF COURSE NOT! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GET IN A FIGHT WITH HIM! BECAUSE WE'RE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE HUNTING BULLIES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE OUT HERE DOING.
WE!
WHAT?
WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING OUT HERE?
NO, I DON'T.
YOU KNOW THAT'S WHAT I MEANT!
SORRY I'M NOT GREAT WITH WORDS. I DON'T HAVE AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE IN MY BRAIN.
I'M PULLING OVER. WE NEED GAS.

GAS
I JUST GOT A SHRED OF A SIGNAL. THERE'S AN ARMORY.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT CORRESPOND TO A SPOT THAT'S MARKED ON THE SCROLL.
FINE.
ACT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ME GET IN A FIGHT.
YOU KNOW WHA—
CRACK
WHAT WAS THAT?

WELL, LOOK AT THAT.
ARE YOU OKAY?
OH, IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO STOP MY CLOCK, YOUNG LADY.
THIS OLD TRUCK, THOUGH...
IT'S MOSTLY THE FRONT BUMPER. BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME WORK TO UNWEDGE IT FROM THE WHEEL.
I'M SO SORRY!
NO TROUBLES. TED AT THE SHOP WILL FIX ME UP WHEN HE GETS BACK.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO STOP IN AT MY SISTER'S, THOUGH. SHE'S FEELING POORLY.
SHE'LL BE WORRIED IF I DON'T SHOW.
DOES SHE HAVE A PHONE? CAN WE CALL HER?
RED HASN'T HAD A PHONE IN DECADES.
HA. DECADES. WELL I COULD DRIVE OVER AND LET HER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
COULD YOU EXCUSE US JUST A MINUTE?
DON'T MIND ME. I'M JUST AN OLD MAN IN THE DESERT. HEH.

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GO CHECK OUT AN OLD STORE OR SOMETHING.
YEAH, WELL, CLEARLY WE'VE HIT A BIT OF A SNAG IN THAT PLAN.
IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU TO GO ALONE.
APRIL.
I CAN HANDLE MYSELF TOO, CASEY.
ABOUT HOW FAR IS IT TO YOUR SISTER'S?
SHOULDN'T TAKE YOU MORE THAN AN HOUR.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO USE THAT BIKE IF THERE'S OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO BE GETTING TO.
IT'S MINE.
OLD BUT IT STILL WORKS. THE GUYS JUST PUT GAS IN IT YESTERDAY.

I'LL MEET BACK HERE. TEXT ME IF YOU FIND ANYTHING.
YEAH.
APRIL.
WHAT?
JUST. BE CAREFU..
I KNOW.
BACK IN A BIT!
THANK YOU KINDLY!
THANK YOU FOR NOT SUING US FOR HITTING YOUR TRUCK.

GAS
BYE KIDS!
YOUNG LOVE.
SUCH A CURIOUS AFFLICTION.
THESE HUMANS REALLY ARE SUCH STRANGE CREATURES.
BUT AMUSING, YES?
I THINK...

"...IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE GAME."
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO BE A WOMAAAN...
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAD ANY FUN.

art by FAITH ERIN HICKS
colors by PAULINA GANUCHEAU

CASEY & APRIL*2

ART BY IRENE KOH

LIKE A ROOOLLING STOOOOOOONE...
OKAY.
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR SOME STRANGE OLD MAN'S SISTER, GO BACK TO THE GAS STATION WHERE YOU HIT THE STRANGE OLD MAN'S TRUCK...
...GET CASEY, AND CONTINUE YOUR WILD DESERT GOOSE CHASE, USING A SCROLL GIVEN TO YOU...
...BY A RECENTLY MURDERED PROFESSOR OF EAST ASIAN HISTORY.
PIECE OF CAKE.

YOU'VE GOT A FULL TANK.
ENOUGH GAS STATION SNACKS TO FEED A SMALL VILLAGE.
AND A VAN FULL OF MARTIAL ARTS WEAPONS
SO STOP MOANING ABOUT...
...YOUR BOYFRIEND.
AND STOP TALKING TO YOURSELF LIKE A CRAZY PERSON.
...A FINE TIME TO LEAVE ME...

THIS IS AN ARMORY?
5:49
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GET IN A FIGHT W TH HIM!
BECAUSE WE'RE OUT IN THE M DDLE OF NOWHERE HUNT NG BULLIES!

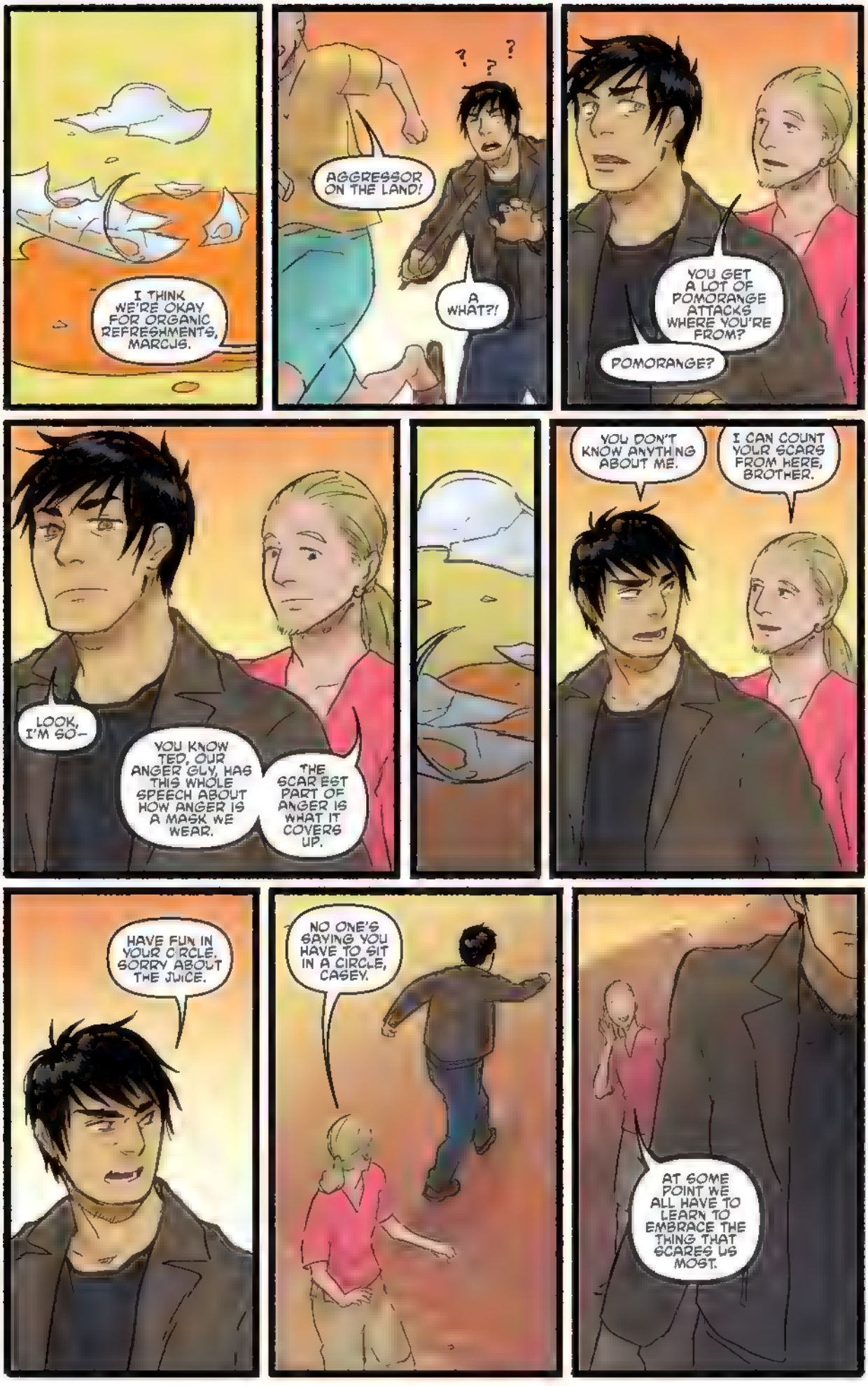
STUPID.
AAAIIIIEEEEE

HEY, I'M GLAD I COULD HELP.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT IN A RENTAL WITHOUT CHECKING FOR A TIRE IRON.
CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?
YOU CAN KEEP ME COMPANY AND KEEP AN EYE ON MY KIDS FOR A SEC.
THEY'RE SO CUTE.
AND SMART. IT'S A LITTLE SCARY.
I WAS KIND OF A BRAIN. WHEN I WAS THAT AGE.
NOT ANYMORE?
ECHINOCACTUS POLYCEPHALUS!
ECHINOCEREUS ENGELMANNII!
ARE YOU BLIND?
ARE YOU STUPID?
IT MUST BE SO COOL TO WATCH THEM GROW UP.
PLUS NOW I KNOW A LOT ABOUT PLANTS.

WHEN I WAS A KID, I WAS OBSESSED WITH SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, HISTORY, ANYTHING I COULD GET MY HANDS ON.
ALL I DID WAS READ.
HOW DID THAT TURN OUT?
MOM!
MOM!
I DON'T KNOW.
"SOMETIMES I THINK THE ONLY TIME I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING IS WHEN EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART."
EVERYTHING FALLING APART SOUNDS PRETTY SCARY.
IT IS, BUT THEN WHEN EVERYTHING IS CRAZY, IT'S OBVIOUS.
NOW WHEN IT'S NOT CHAOS, I JUST FEEL...

"...LOST"
AIII

UH. NO. I WAS LOOKING FOR... AN ARMORY?
ARMORY? OH. MAYBE A LONG T ME AGO
HELLO, BY THE WAY, I'M SAM.
CASEY.
CASEY. I WELCOME YOJ.
WHAT IS THIS?
THE BROKEN SWORD! SPIRITUAL HEALNG CENTER FOR MEN.
WE DO YOGA AND RE KI. GOT A GREAT RE KI GJY NOW.
WE'VE GOT A NEW ANGER MANAGEMENT GLIDE. TED. TED IS GREAT.
YEAH. THANKS FOR THE, LH, TOUR. I SHOJLD SPLIT.
OH REALLY? I—
CAN I OFFER YOJ A REFRESHING GLASS OF POMO—
AUGH! HELP!
KASH


I THINK WE'RE OKAY FOR ORGANIC REFRESHMENTS, MARCUS.
AGGRESSOR ON THE LAND!
? ? ?
A WHAT?!
YOU GET A LOT OF POMORANGE ATTACKS WHERE YOU'RE FROM?
POMORANGE?
LOOK, I'M SO–
YOU KNOW TED, OUR ANGER GUY, HAS THIS WHOLE SPEECH ABOUT HOW ANGER IS A MASK WE WEAR.
THE SCARIEST PART OF ANGER IS WHAT IT COVERS UP.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME.
I CAN COUNT YOUR SCARS FROM HERE, BROTHER.
HAVE FUN IN YOUR CIRCLE, SORRY ABOUT THE JUICE.
NO ONE'S SAYING YOU HAVE TO SIT IN A CIRCLE, CASEY.
AT SOME POINT WE ALL HAVE TO LEARN TO EMBRACE THE THING THAT SCARES US MOST.

CHEER UP. SOME OF US NEVER KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME SPILL MY GUTS AND EVERYTHING.
ANY TIME. STAY SAFE, OK?
I'LL TRY.
RING
HELLO?
HEY.
HELLO?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YOU'RE CUTTING OUT.
THE ARMORY. IT'S NOT AN ARMORY, IT'S A MEN'S THING.
A WHAT?
NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING.
WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SIGNS OF A HOUSE OR A CAMPER OR ANYTHING. IT'S JUST DESERT.
THIS PLACE IS CRAZY.
SO I SHOULD PROBABLY TURN...

WHAT?
WHAT?
CASEY, DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE–
I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK TO THE GAS– WHAT?
I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING LIKE...
I'M AT THE ARMORY
YOU'RE BREAKING UP.
BREAKING UP?
APRIL? CAN YOU EVEN HEAR ME?
CASEY? I GOTTA GO.
FRED
FINALLY.

OKAY, RED, LET'S DO THIS.
CALL FAILED
AARGH!
"I JUST HAVE THIS FEE...NG LIKE..."

SO QUIET.
OKAY, APRIL. JUST RELAX, THERE'S NOTHING...

"...WRONG."
GAS
WHAT THE HELL?
THIS THING IS... ANCIENT.
IT'S ALL RUST AND COBWEBS.
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
SQUEEEK
AHHH!

OH MY GOD.
APRIL.
SQUEEK SQUEEK
SQUEEK SQUEEK
APRIL!
HELLO?

IT'S GOTTA BE THE SAME GAS STATION. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR MILES.
HOW COULD IT—
—CHANGE?
CREAK
UH, HELLO? I'M HERE WITH A MESSAGE FROM...
DAMN.
UH, RED? I'M HERE WITH A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BROTHER?

UNKNOWN CALLER
HE..LO, WHO S TH.S?
KSSHHH
APRIL!
C'MON, APRIL, PICK UP THE PHONE!

?
APRIL!
IT'S A TRAP!

DAMMIT.
HI, JM, MY NAME S APRIL?
IS THERE SOMEONE–
HEY!
WAIT!

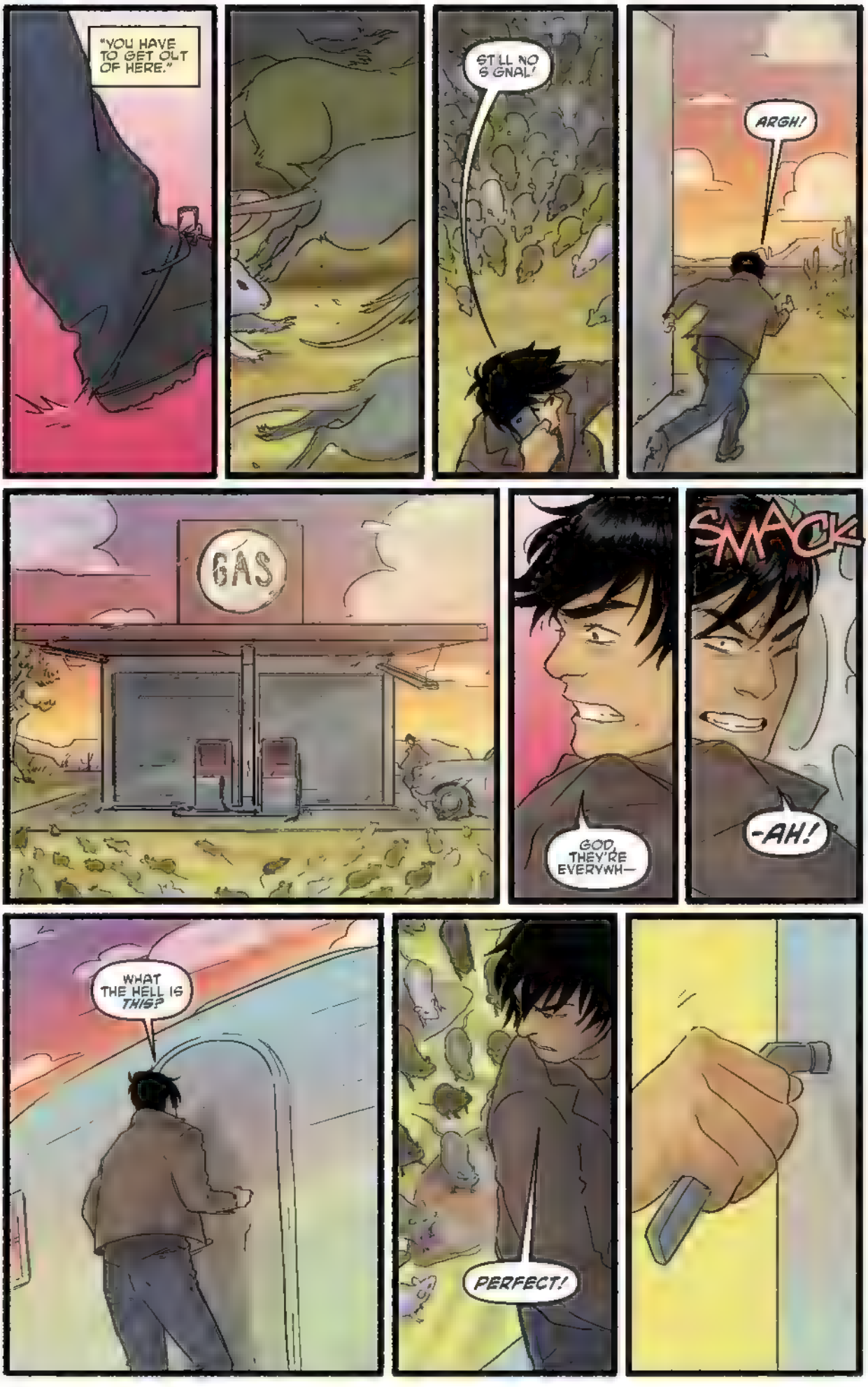
AGH!!
I THINK WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH T ME TO GRAB SOME BARBEQUE, DON'T YOU?
YES I THINK SO.
YOU WANT ANYTHING?
NO.

art by JENNIFER L. MEYER

CASEY & APRIL "3"

"ANCIENT GREECE. VENGEFUL KING MINOS, RULER OF CRETE, INSTRUCTS HIS MAN DAEDALUS, GENIUS INVENTOR, TO BUILD HIM A MAZE.
"THE LABYRINTH."

"EVERY YEAR, THE ATHENIANS SENT SEVEN YOUNG MEN, AND SEVEN MAIDENS, TO BE SACRIFICED.
"OFFERINGS.
"BLOODY TRIBUTES.
"THEY SCAMPERED THROUGH THE DARK PASSAGES OF DAEDALUS' COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION LIKE..."
SQUEEK
EXACTLY.
HELLO?
OKAY OKAY. CALM DOWN. YOU HAVE TO CALM DOWN.


"YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE."
STILL NO SIGNAL
ARGH!
GAS
GOD, THEY'RE EVERYWH—
SMACK
-AH!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
PERFECT!

OK, APRIL. FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU ARE. MAP IT OUT.
SO THIS SIDE IS TWO, THREE.
FIVE, SIX STEPS ACROSS.
...TWO, THREE, FOUR?
...THREE, FOUR.
...FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT?

?
?
WAIT, WHAT?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

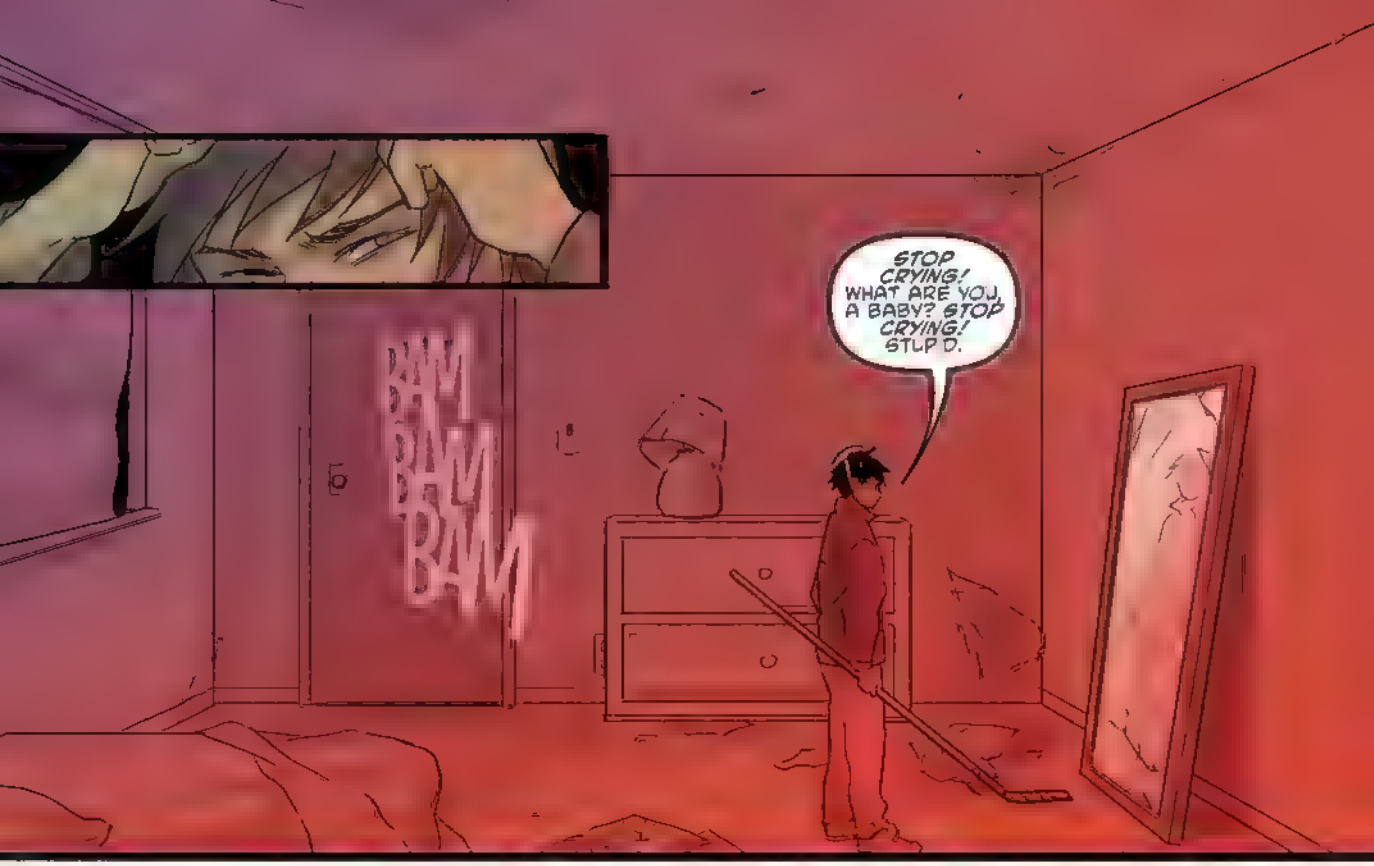
STUPID.
THIS IS...
...POINTLESS!
BIRDS
DAD, WHY DO I SPEND A MILLION HOURS RESEARCHING STUFF THAT NO ONE EVEN CARES ABOUT?
EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING EASY STUFF AND I'M WASTING A MILLION HOURS WRITING ABOUT STUFF NO ONE EVEN GETS.
I COULD JUST DO, LIKE, "WHAT IS AN OWL."
WOULD BE DONE BY NOW...
DUMB.
HARD WORK IS NEVER POINTLESS, APRIL.
IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT YOU DO WELL.
WHEN YOU GIVE UP, YOU'RE SHOWING THE WORLD THAT YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON...

"...WHO GIVES UP WHEN THINGS GET HARD."
I'M NOT GIVING UP, I'M JUST NOT SURE THIS IS WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING, OKAY?!
DAD.
OH MY GOD, PLEASE GET IT TOGETH—
!?
AAHH!

HEY!
"THE DEADLIEST ELEMENT OF THE LABYRINTH WAS THE CREATURE IT WAS BUILT TO IMPRISON."
NOW WHAT?
OLD MAN?
CLIP
CLOP
WHAT IS THIS?!
"A DEADLY CREATURE."
SNORT
"HALF MAN, HALF BULL. A FORMIDABLY MONSTROUS END FOR THE INNOCENT ATHENIANS WHO—."

EXCUSE ME. I KNOW YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR STORY OF THE LABYRINTH IMMENSELY...
AND YOU ARE NOT?
NO TASTE FOR BLOOD AND GORE TODAY?
MY INTEREST WAS NEVER BLOOD AND GORE, BROTHER.
WHAT THEN?
SHUFF HUFF
THE COMPLEXITY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

"THE CAPACITY FOR HUMANS TO CARRY AND OVERCOME THE H STORIES LODGED INSIDE OF THEM."
WHAT THE HELL?
AAAAHHH!


BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
STOP CRYING! WHAT ARE YOU, A BABY? STOP CRYING! STUPID.

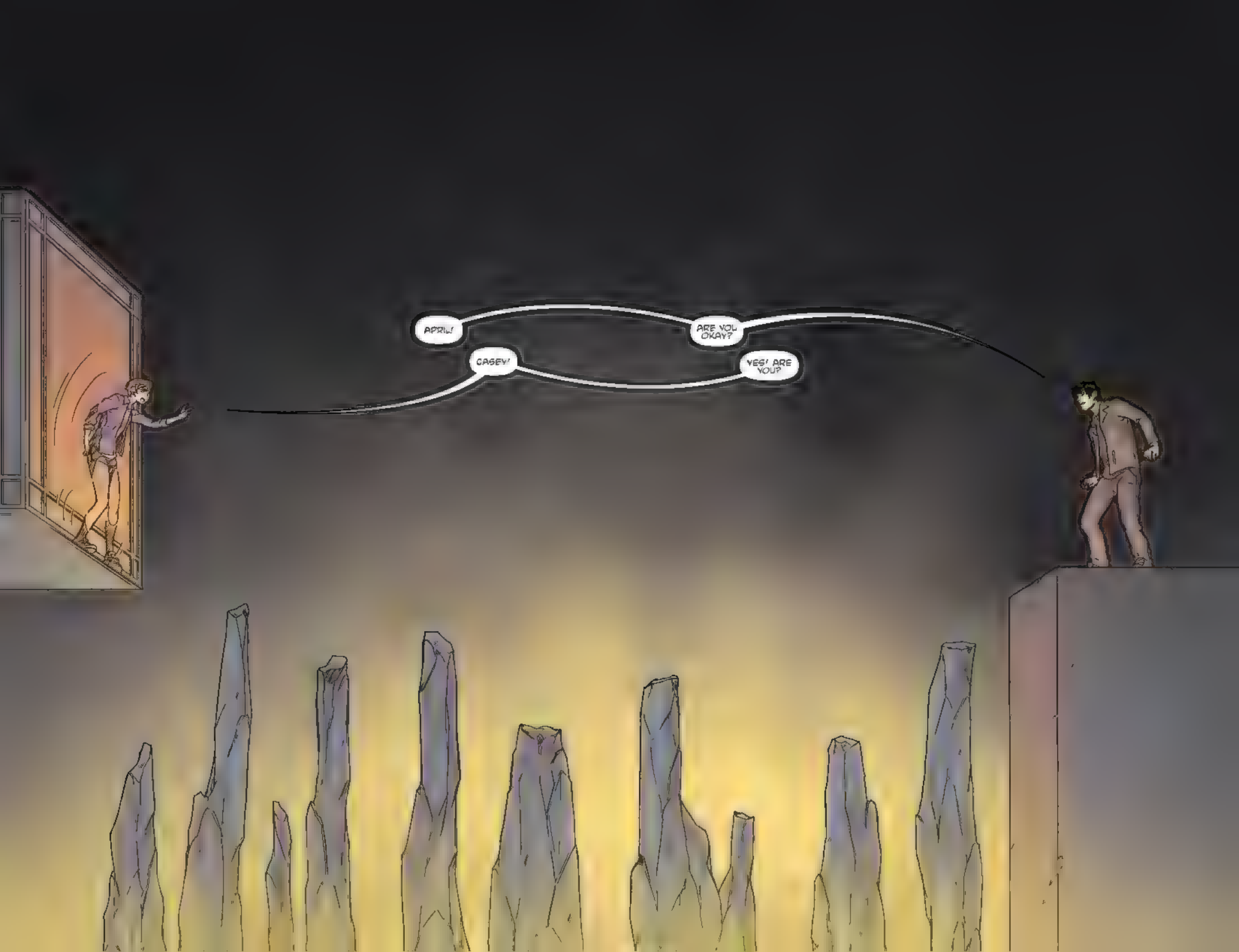
STOP. BEING. SCARED. BABY.

YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME NOW, STUPID OLD MAN.

THAT YOGA GUY WAS RIGHT. WE'RE DAMAGED GOODS.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
HEY!
HEY, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL IN MY BRAIN BUT-

—DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF HERE?!
OKAY. THAT WAS BAD.
DON'T WANT TO DIE IN A MYSTERIOUS MAZE N SOME OLD LADY'S TRAILER IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
NOT THE WEIRDEST WAY TO DIE THAT'S COME UP IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.
BUT STILL.
THE ONLY WAY OUT IS IN.
HEY! STOP!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

CASEY?
CASEY?
APRIL?
CASEY!


APRIL!
ARE YOU OKAY?
CASEY!
YES! ARE YOU?

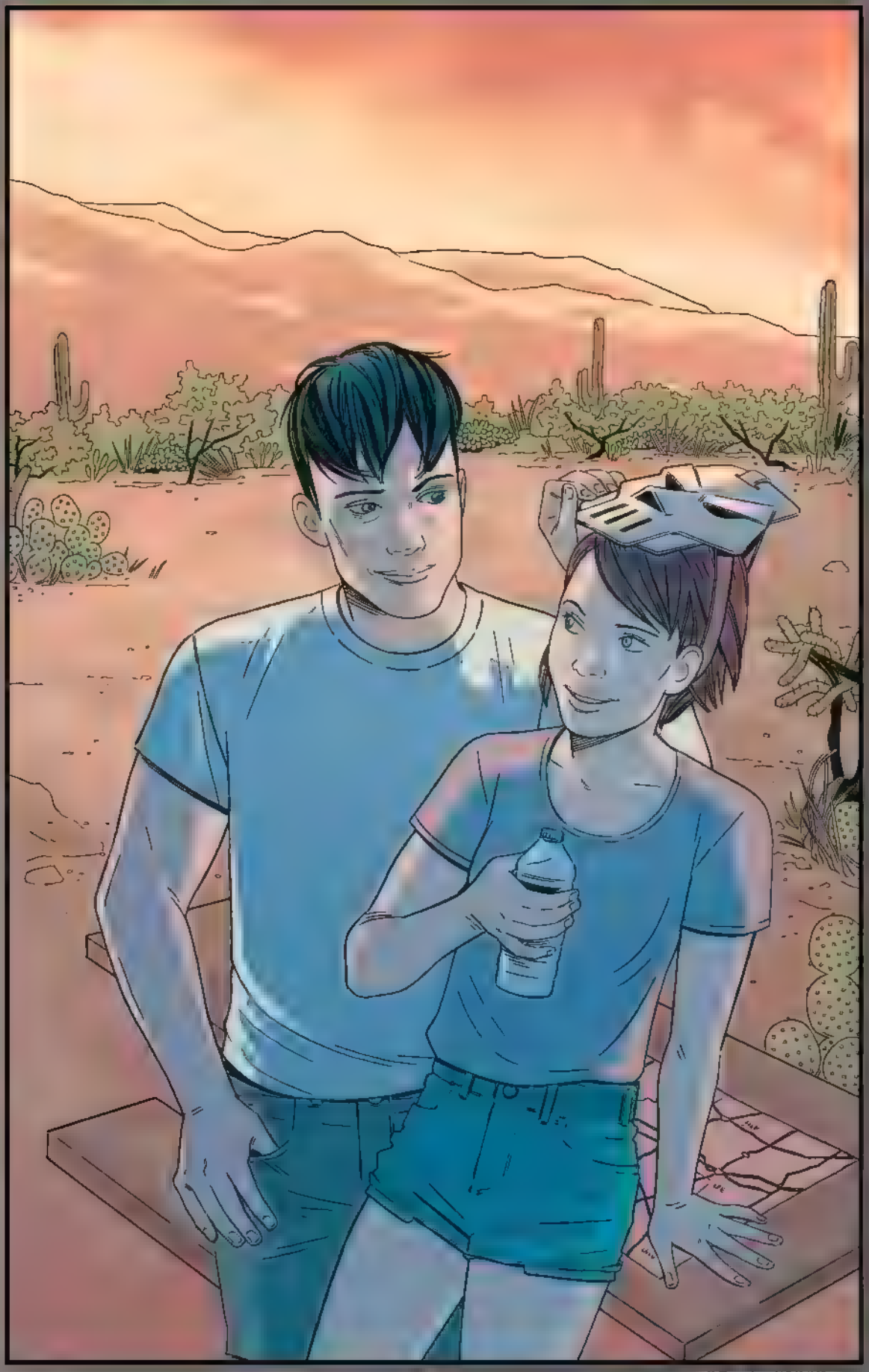
WHAT IS TH S PLACE?
I DON'T KNOW.
HOLY COW, I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.
I HATE CALIFORNIA!
YEAH, I CAN SEE WHY!
NOW WE JUST NEED TO GET OJT OF HERE.
R GHT.
I GLESS THIS S THE PATH?
I DON'T KNOW. IT LOOKS. TENJOUS.
YEAH, BUT I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY.
STAY THERE.

THIS IS SOME ROAD TRIP, HUH?
I KIND OF WISH WE WERE BACK AT THE DINER NOW.
BAD COFFEE.
TERRIBLE.
I'M SORRY I WAS A JERK.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
FOR THAT.
I'M SORRY WE SPLIT UP.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE GUY—
CASEY, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE I'M—
RUMBLE.
CASEY!

CRACK
CRACK
APRIL, NO!
WHY DID YOU COME OUT HERE? YOU CAN'T SAVE ME! NOW WE'RE BOTH—
WOW. REALLY, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY TO ME RIGHT NOW?
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU!
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU! OBVIOUSLY.
LOOK. I READ THIS THING. I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS BUT, SINCE WE'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE...
WHAT WAS IT?
GRAB
"THE ONLY WAY OUT IS IN."

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I THINK IT MEANS THERE'S NO WAY OUT.
SO? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I THINK IT MEANS WE HAVE TO GO IN.
HOW DOES THAT WORK?
CRACK
CRACK
I THINK IT'S LIKE OUR THELMA AND LOUISE MOMENT.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A MOVIE.
GEEZ! I'M NOT A COMPLETE IDIOT! I MEAN WHAT DOES THAT MEAN WE DO?
WE JUMP, TOGETHER. IN.
WELL, WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY OTHER CHOI—
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
OKAY.
OKAY.
TOGETHER.

OOF!
WELL THEN. OUR GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED. HOW LOVELY

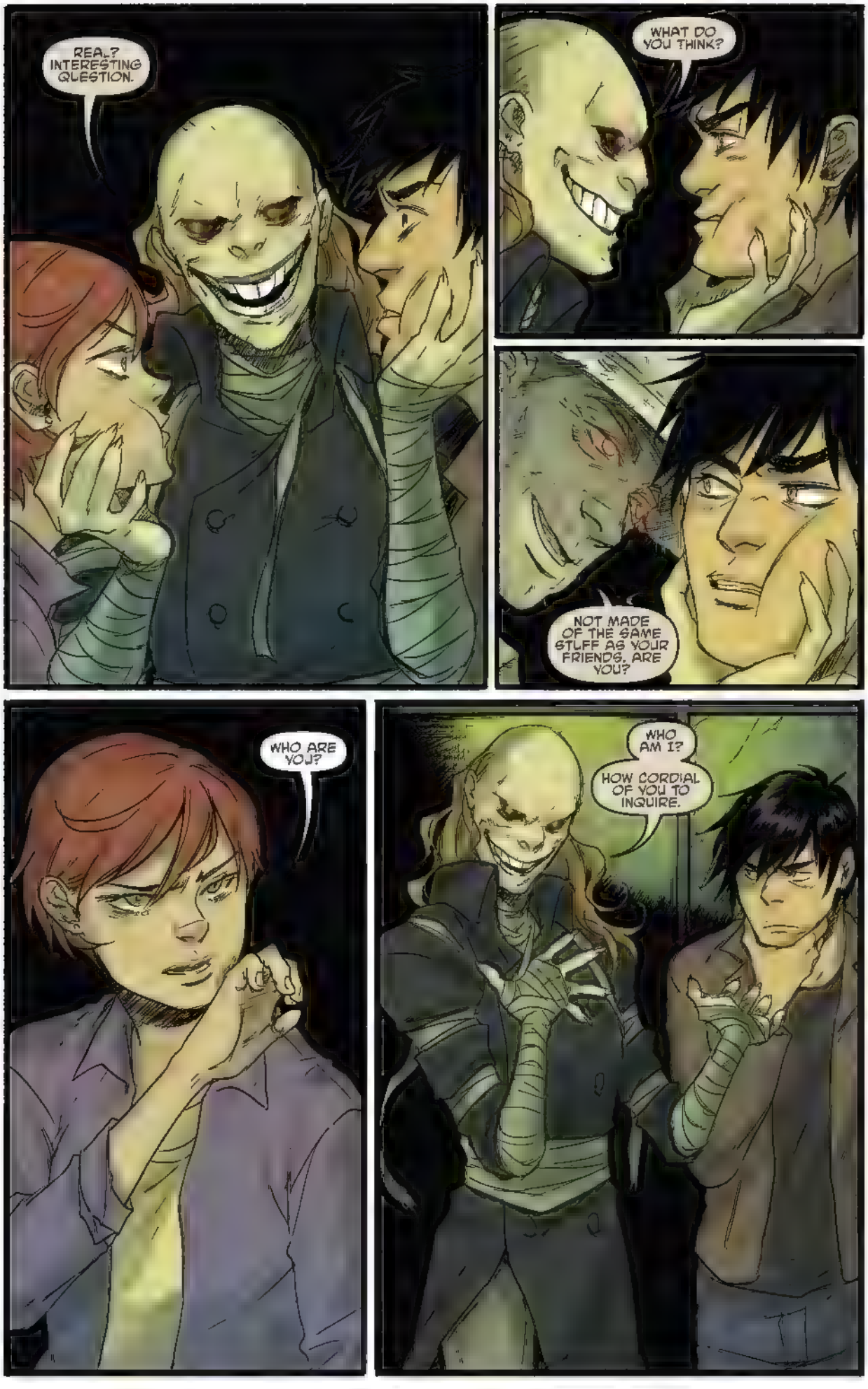

ART BY MARLEY ZARCONE
COLORS BY RYAN HILL

CASEY & APRIL #4

art by IRENE KOH

WHAT NOW SEEMS LIKE AGES AGO...
TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK. SEE YOU GUYS SOON.
OKAY. SO WHAT'S NEXT?
HOLD ON A SECOND.
APRIL! WAIT UP.
WHAT'S UP?
I DON'T KNOW. DÉJÀ VU? WHEN SPLINTER PASSED THE SCRO... TO ME, I GOT... A VIBE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?
MAYBE IT'S NOTHING. BUT IT FEELS LIKE... SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN, LIKE MAYBE THERE IS A REASON THE SCROLL ENDED UP IN OUR HANDS, YOU KNOW?

"MAYBE THIS IS SOMETHING FINDING US"
NOW.
SQUEAK SQUEAK
WATCH YOUR STEP.
WHERE ARE WE?
YOU ARE IN BETWEEN WORLDS, WHAT YOUR ACADEMIC COLLEAGUES WOULD DESCRIBE AS A LIMINAL SPACE.
CRACK!
EXCUSE THE MESS
DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE DIMENSION BETWEEN WORLDS... TIDY.
IS THIS REAL?

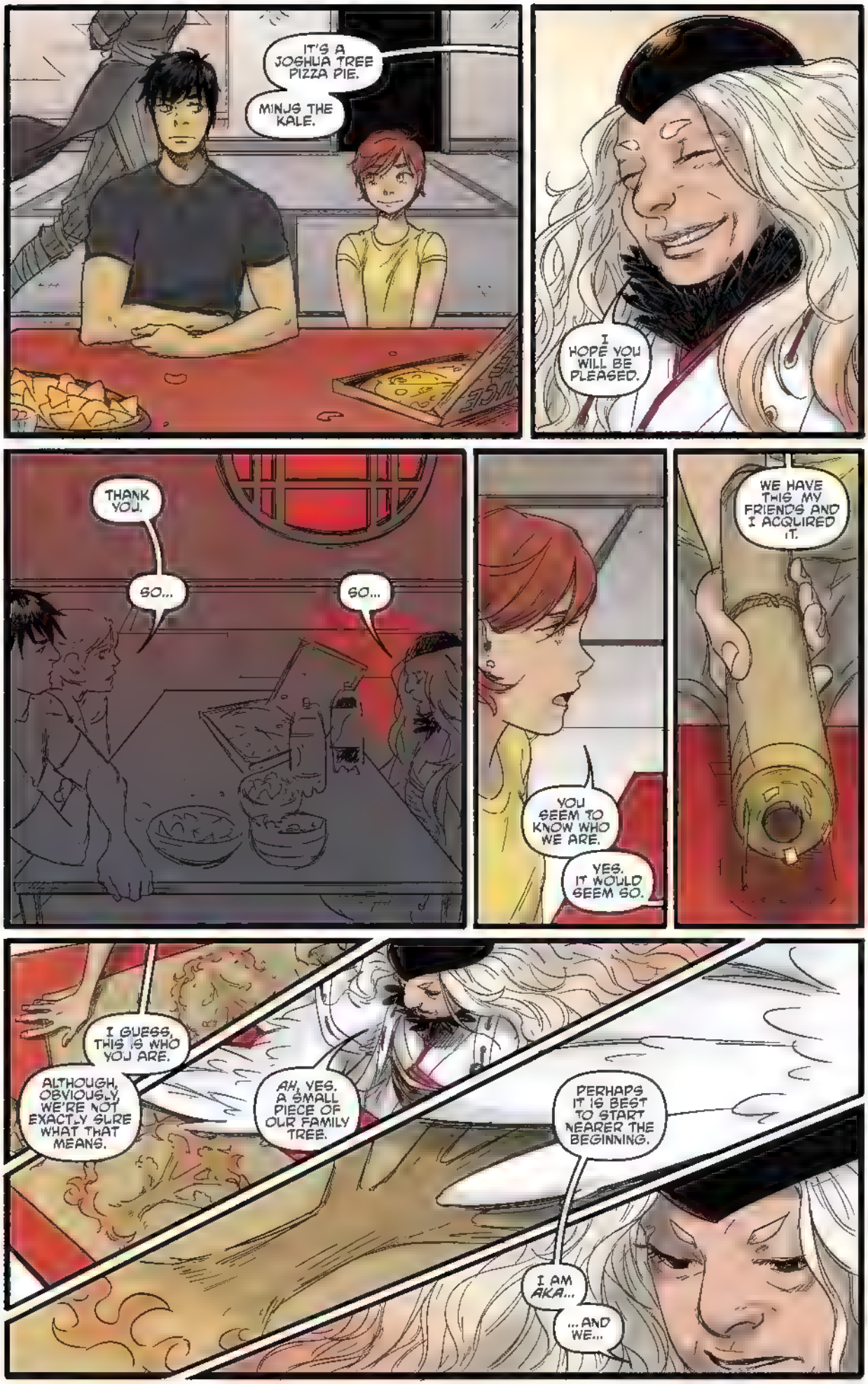

REAL? INTERESTING QUESTION.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NOT MADE OF THE SAME STUFF AS YOUR FRIENDS, ARE YOU?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO AM I?
HOW CORDIAL OF YOU TO INQUIRE.

I AM THE RAT KING.
MAKER OF KINGS...
.. AND CHAOS.
I WOULD SUGGEST IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, BUT I BELIEVE YOU AND I BOTH KNOW IT'S FAR MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, YES?
BROTHER...

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE RETRIEVING OUR GUESTS.
BUT OF COURSE! BEHOLD...
...THE YOUNG LOVERS!
COME THEN.
I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

I'LL JUST MAKE MYSELF AT HOME.
I PROMISE. NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU HERE.
NOT A PROMISE YOU HEAR OFTEN FROM OUR FAMILY.
I IMAGINE YOU ARE HUNGRY.
AND I AM SURE YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.
UH. COULD YOU, UH, JUST GIVE US A MOMENT?

I DON'T LIKE THIS.
I KNOW. I DON'T TRUST HIM. BUT...
I THINK WE CAN TRUST HER.
HOW CAN YOU TRUST SOMEONE WHO HASN'T REALLY SAID ANYTHING YET?
IF I SAY THAT I THINK WE SHOULD SPLIT, ARE YOU JUST GOING TO GET MAD?
NO.
CASEY...
LOOK. I KNOW THIS TRIP...
WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT LATER
MY GUT TELLS ME WE GOT TO GET OUTTA HERE.
MY GUT SAYS... THIS WOMAN IS WHY WE'RE HERE.
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED IT'S NOT SAFE BUT... SO FAR, WE'RE STILL OKAY. IF THEY WANTED TO KILL US...
OKAY WE STAY.
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.


IT'S A JOSHUA TREE PIZZA PIE.
MINJS THE KALE.
I HOPE YOU WILL BE PLEASED.
THANK YOU.
SO...
SO...
YOU SEEM TO KNOW WHO WE ARE.
YES. IT WOULD SEEM SO.
WE HAVE THIS, MY FRIENDS AND I ACQUIRED IT.
I GUESS, THIS IS WHO YOU ARE.
ALTHOUGH, OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT THAT MEANS.
AH, YES. A SMALL PIECE OF OUR FAMILY TREE.
PERHAPS IT IS BEST TO START NEARER THE BEGINNING.
I AM AKA...
...AND WE...

...ARE IMMORTALS.
WE ARE WANDERERS, EXPLORERS...
...SHAPE-SHIFTING CREATURES, GODS AND MONSTERS.
MILLENNIA AGO WE RULED THE EARTH.
"MANY OF US, INTENT ON WARRING W TH EACH OTHER.
"AND THEN..."
HUMANS.

"AS YOU MULTIPLIED AND MIGRATED ACROSS THE EARTH'S SURFACE, OUR GRASP OF POWER... LOOSENED
"MANY OF US DISAPPEARED, WENT INTO HIDING, EMERGING EVERY DECADE OR SO...
"... TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF YOUR HISTORY."
ANY RECENT... SCRATCHES WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?
HMMMMM.
SUCH VIGOR.
<IF WE BROKE THIS ONE IN HALF WE'D FIND A BURNING FLAME.>
<BREAKING IN HALF IS NOT FITTING TREATMENT FOR GUESTS.>
NOR IS SPEAKING IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE. MY APOLOGIES.
TELL ME, HOW ARE YOUR FELLOW WARRIORS?
ONE IS... A SHE... OF HIS FORMER SELF?
YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT MY FRIENDS? TALK WITH RESPECT.

BOY.
YOU MUST NEVER FORGET YOUR PLACE...
...AS A MERE AMUSEMENT.
STOP!
APRIL.

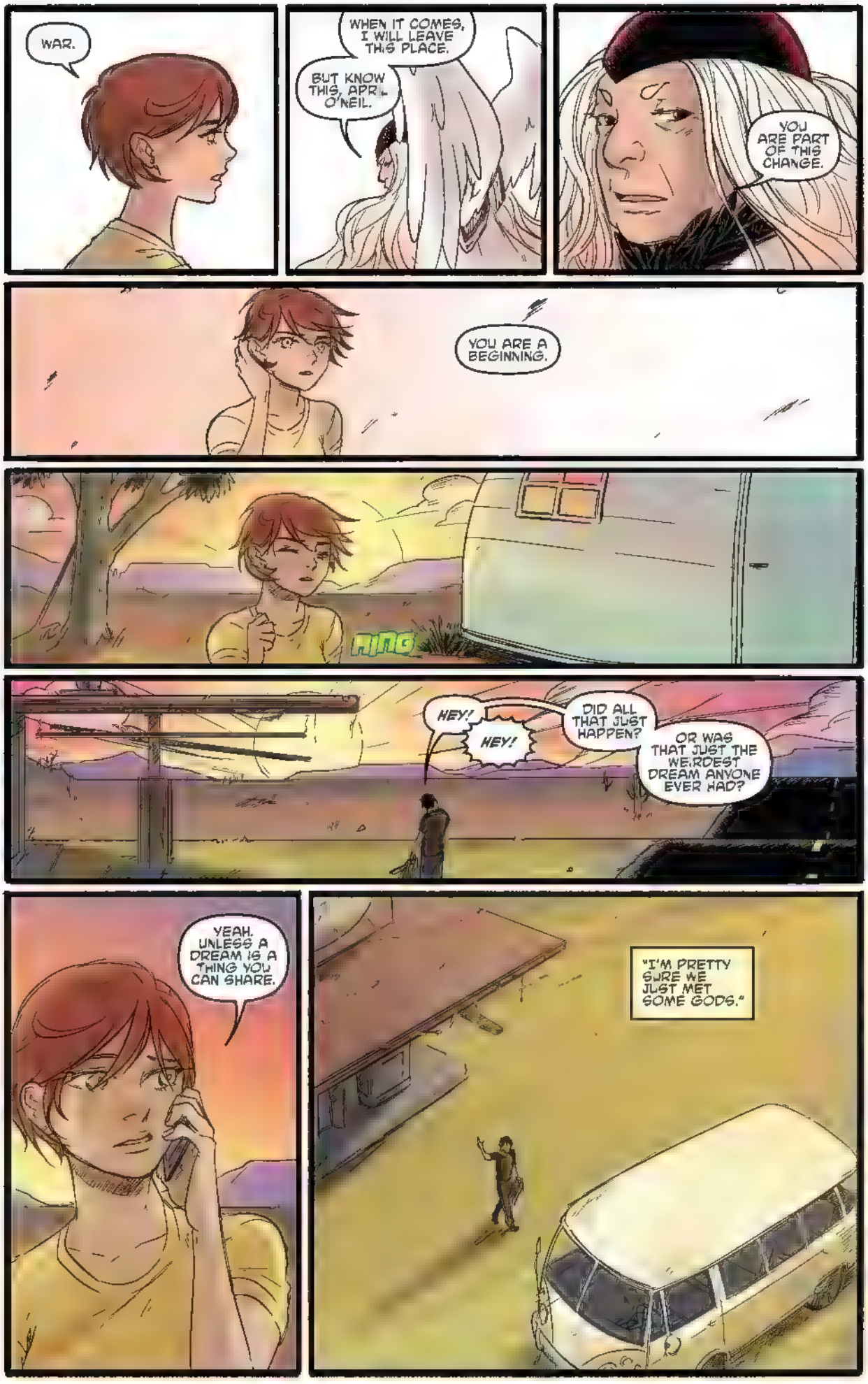
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE DID THEY GO?
THEY ARE, UNCHANGED. IT IS WE WHO HAVE STOPPED MOVING FORWARD, WHO HAVE SETTLED INTO THIS SPACE OF A SECOND.
I CAN'T LEAVE HIM WITH THAT MONSTER!
MY BROTHER IS A TRICKSTER.
BUT LIKE ME HE IS RULED BY CURIOSITY, NOT MALICE.
THE BOY WILL BE SAFE. PLEASE.
APRIL O'NEIL.
COME.
I MUST SPEAK TO YOU.
MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS IMMORTAL, MOST OF THEM, SEEK POWER. I SEEK... UNDERSTANDING.
OF HUMAN HISTORY. AND OF CHANGE.

CHANGE UNFOLDS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.
IT CAN BE EXTRAORD NARY.
OR AS QUIET AS A REFLECTION IN STILL WATERS.
CHANGE IS WAR, STRUGGLE, CONFLICT, BUT ALSO METAMORPHOSIS, PHOTOSYNTHESIS
SCIENCE.
YES.
EVERY NEW HUMAN... IS CHANGE. SOME HUMANS MORE THAN OTHERS.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE?
ME? NO.
CHANGE IS COMING.

MY FAMILY IS GATHERING. IT IS A NEW BEG NNING. A REVOLLT.ON.
A TIME...
"...FOR A NEW WAR."
APRIL?!
SUCH A DISAPPOINTMENT.
I WILL ADMIT I WAS CURIOUS.
AFTER MY ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
BJT NOW I SEE.
WHEN THE T ME COMES, YOUR WEAKNESS WILL BE YOUR END.

AND YOUR END WILL BE THE FALL OF THOSE WHO WOULD GIVE THEIR LIVES TO SAVE YOU
NO.
YOURS IS A STORY ALREADY WRITTEN, BOY.
AND NOT EVEN IN RHYME.
YOU'RE WRONG.

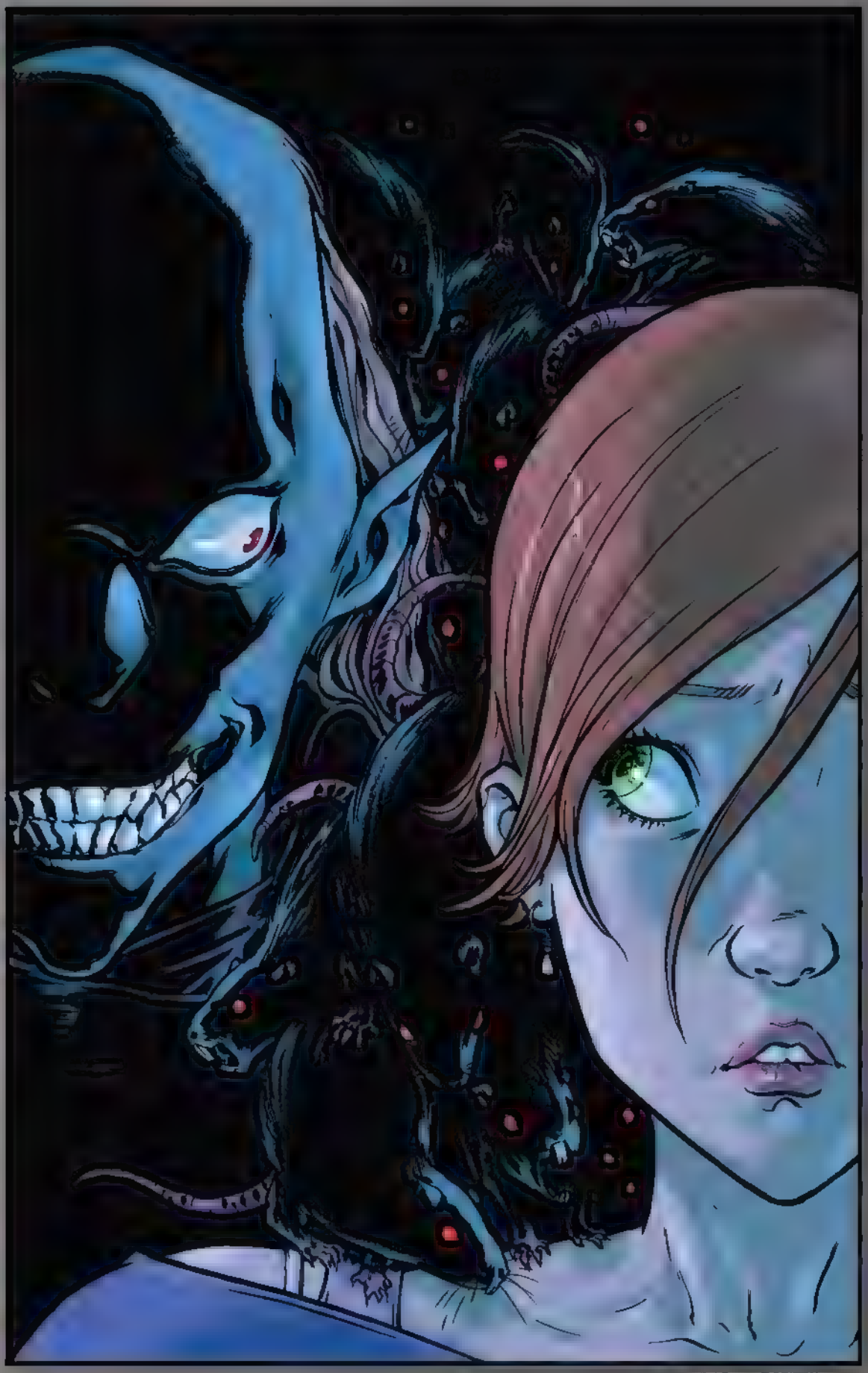
EVERY BATTLE IS ONE STEP FORWARD.
A STEP TOWARDS YOJR UNDOING.
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH RAT THERAPY FOR TODAY.
I BELIEVE THAT'S T ME, SISTER.


WAR.
WHEN IT COMES, I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE.
BUT KNOW THIS, APRIL O'NEIL.
YOU ARE PART OF THIS CHANGE.
YOU ARE A BEGINNING.
HNG
HEY!
HEY!
DID ALL THAT JUST HAPPEN?
OR WAS THAT JUST THE WEIRDEST DREAM ANYONE EVER HAD?
YEAH. UNLESS A DREAM IS A THING YOU CAN SHARE.
"I'M PRETTY SURE WE JUST MET SOME GODS."

I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID. ABOUT COUPLES WORKING TOGETHER.
IT'S HARD BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE... YOU KNOW... NOT DEAD.
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
THE WOMAN, AKA, TALKING ABOUT CHANGE.
WHAT CHANGES?
RING
DUDE!
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
HOLD ON, I'M PULLING OVER.
LEO! IT IS GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
YEAH. A LOT TO SAY, MAN. I DON'T KNOW IF THE SCROLL HELPED BUT...
WE BASICALLY JUST MET. I DON'T KNOW... IMMORTALS?
WHAT KIND OF IMMORTALS?
THE RAT AND BIRD KIND.

"RED."
APRIL?
YOU OKAY?
I THINK SO. JUST. BRAIN HEAVY.
WELL, YOU ARE THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE.

LEO SAYS HI. I FIGURE WE CAN TALK TO HIM ONCE WE FIND A HOTEL.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT.
COOL. SO WE'RE NOT TOTALLY LOST THEN?
STORMS AHEAD SO A WARNING TO ALL MOTORISTS.
I HOPE NOT
"...AS YOU WALK ON BY..."
THE END


SOPHIE CAMPBELL

art by ZACH HOWARD

art by ALBERTO PONTICELLI
colors by JAY FOTOS

OLD HOB, SLASH, AND THEIR CREW ARE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, AND, WHEN SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE GROUP IS KIDNAPPED, THE MUTANIMALS END UP ON AN ADVENTURE MORE WILD AND DANGEROUS THAN THEY COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED. THEN, THE TURTLES RETURN FROM BURNOW ISLAND TO FIND UNIMAGINABLE TRAGEDY. AS THE FAMILY STRUGGLES TO COPE, AN ENRAGED FOOT CLAN PREPARES ITS REVENGE. MEANWHILE, CASEY PREPARES FOR A FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH HUN AS THE PURPLE DRAGONS RUN AMOK, AND APRIL HAS COME INTO POSSESSION OF AN ANCIENT SCROLL THAT SEEMS TO POINT TO ANSWERS REGARDING THE PANTHEON. IT ALL LEADS TO A FINAL SHOWDOWN AS KARAI DECREES A GAUNTLET BATTLE BETWEEN SPLINTER AND SHREDDER.

VOLUME 6 COLLECTS THE *MUTANIMALS* MINI-SERIES, ISSUES #45–50 OF THE *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES* ONGOING SERIES, THE 2015 FREE COMIC BOOK DAY ISSUE, AND THE *CASEY & APRIL* MINI-SERIES.

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